BENNETT, COLEMAN & CO. LTD. | Estd. 1838 | VOL. 43 NO. 118 BENGALURU | TUESDAY, MAY 19, 2026 | METRO | PAGES 22 | PRICE ₹5**

THE TIMES OF INDIA

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A federal jury rules that **Elon Musk waited too long to sue OpenAI & its co-founders, delivering a decisive victory to OpenAI CEO Sam Altman** and ending one of Silicon Valley's most closely watched courtroom battles, **Page Opp**

With child deaths from measles on the rise, Bangladesh govt says it has walked into a full-blown vaccine crisis, claiming there wasn't a single measles shot in stock when it assumed office, **Page Opp**

US Prez Trump, in a post, says he is holding off on a military strike on Iran planned for Tuesday because 'serious negotiations' are under way. He had earlier instructed military to be prepared for a large-scale assault on Iran

Indian-origin British golfer Aaron Rai claims his first major title by winning the US PGA Championship — and becomes the first English winner of the event in more than a century, **P 14**

Karnataka fears 30% drop in foodgrain output

Karnataka may witness a sharp fall in agricultural output this year as an impending El Niño threatens a poor monsoon. The state's foodgrain production could drop by 25-30%, warned agriculture minister N Cheluvarayaswamy, raising concerns over higher food inflation in the coming months. **P 4**

Bengal discontinues all religious doles

Bengal govt has moved to stamp out religion-based aid like honorariums for imams and priests. CM Adhikari asserted "it was not govt's job to distribute doles to imams and purohits". **P 5**

Modern Bread ups price by ₹5 a pack

After milk got costlier by Rs 2 per litre, Modern Bread increased prices by Rs 5 per pack. Input costs of imported raw material used for packaging and transportation are factors behind it. **P 5**

BCCI doesn't come under RTI Act: CIC

Central Information Commission has held that BCCI doesn't come under the purview of RTI Act. It dismissed a plea for details of provisions under which BCCI represents India. **P 13**

55 dead in 1st month of Char Dham yatra

Since Char Dham yatra began on April 19, 55 pilgrims died from health-related issues. Kedarnath route reported 30 fatalities, Badrinath 10, eight in Yamunotri and seven to Gangotri. **P 8**

SC bench slams own court ruling denying bail to Umar

'Deviated' From Larger Bench Verdict Which Is 'Law Of Land'

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New Delhi: Supreme Court seems split on the issue of bail and right to liberty, enshrined as a fundamental right. An SC bench Monday expressed "serious reservations" on the court's verdict denying bail to Umar Khalid and Sharjeel Imam, saying it didn't follow a larger bench judgment — which is "law of the land" and as per which bail should be granted in cases of long incarceration and delay in trial, even under UAPA and PMLA.

A bench of Justices B V Nagarathna and Ujjal Bhuyan said it was "difficult to follow" the division-bench judgment in Delhi riots case, which contradicted the 2021 three-judge Najeeb case verdict, and expressed concern over "propriety of smaller benches progressively hollowing out the constitutional force of a larger bench decision without ever expressly disagreeing with it".

'Bail is the rule, jail the exception' wasn't just a slogan flowing from CrPC but a constitutional principle grounded on Art 21 & 22, the bench said.

> We have serious reservations on various aspects of Gulfisha Fatima judgment, including foreclosing the right of the two appellants (Umar and Sharjeel) to seek bail for a period of one year. It is the hollowing out of the import of Najeeb (verdict) that we are concerned with
>
> It is evident that the two-judge bench (in Gulfisha Fatima case) made a clear departure from the ratio laid down in Najeeb (case)
>
> — SC bench of Justices B V Nagarathna and Ujjal Bhuyan

IN THE COURTS

- Sensing lack of legal merit, **Vadra withdraws Delhi HC plea against land deal summons**
- **Apex court grants former bureaucrat Anil Tuteja bail** in Rs 600cr scam, but banishes him from Chhattisgarh
- SC says raid on judge's house to rescue allegedly tortured minor was illegal as **HC registrar general can't order inquiry proceedings**
- Allahabad HC grants **bail to remaining 6 youngsters arrested for boat iftar party** in Varanasi and dumping biryani waste in Ganga **P 8**

▶**Judicial discipline, P 7**

Judicial panel submits report on Justice Varma

New Delhi: The three-member committee headed by SC judge Aravind Kumar, which was looking into allegations of corruption against Allahabad HC judge Yashwant Varma, submitted its report to LS Speaker Om Birla Monday.

While Varma sent his resignation to President Murmu last month, his name continues to figure among judges of Allahabad HC on its portal and an official notification is yet to be published regarding his departure. These suggest Parliament may consider the report to explore further action against him when it meets during the monsoon session. TNN

▶**To be tabled in Parl, P 7**

US extends waiver on Russian crude imports by 1 month

Move To Aid Indian Refiners; OMCs Still Losing ₹750Cr A Day

Atul.Mathur@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: As benchmark Brent crude touched $111 a barrel due to supply crunch, making global markets nervous, US administration on Monday extended the sanctions waiver allowing countries to buy Russian seaborne crude.

The move is likely to help soften crude prices, which will also benefit Indian refiners. State-run oil retailers are still losing Rs 750 crore a day due to sale of petrol, diesel and domestic cooking gas cylinders below market prices, although the under-recovery has dropped by 25% after last Friday's hike in petrol and diesel prices by Rs 3 a litre. While releasing latest numbers at a press meet Monday, govt refused to comment on the possibility of a further hike in pump prices.

▶**IndianOil profit soars 2.8 times in '25-26, P 11**

▶**India purchased..., P 6**

Adanis settle all US cases, pay $275m on Iran curbs issue

All legal cases that the Adani Group and its various top officials, including chairman Gautam Adani, were facing in the US ended on Monday. Flagship Adani Enterprises has paid $275 million to settle a case of apparent violation of Iran-related sanctions by the US. In a separate case, US Department of Justice dropped criminal charges against Gautam Adani and seven others. **P 11**

NEET leak: CBI arrests coaching centre founder

Pune/New Delhi: CBI has arrested Shivraj Raghunath Motegaonkar, the director of Maharashtra-based Renukai Career Centre (RCC), alleging he circulated leaked NEET-UG 2026 questions through coaching networks and 'mock tests' conducted before examination, **report Gitesh Shelke, Rajshekhar Jha & Koushiki Saha**.

This is the 10th arrest in the case by the CBI, which has now widened its probe, bringing more than 60 suspected beneficiaries under scrutiny. CBI detained Motegaonkar in Latur Sunday night, questioned him at its Pune office and flew him to New Delhi Monday after formally arresting him.

Motegaonkar is allegedly linked to retired chemistry lecturer Prahlad Vithalrao Kulkarni of Latur, whom investigators described as source of the leak.

▶**Coaching networks, P 6**

From Arctic to outer space: India, Norway clinch deals

New Delhi: As Narendra Modi became the first Indian Prime Minister to visit Norway in 43 years, the two countries upgraded ties to a green strategic partnership, signed agreements for cooperation in outer space, health and technology, while announcing eight other outcomes from his meeting with counterpart Jonas Gahr Store.

Modi also announced that both sides concluded a triangular development cooperation agreement that will allow them to jointly contribute to human development in countries of the Global South through India's Digital Public Infrastructure projects. TNN

PM Modi receives the Grand Cross of the Royal Norwegian Order of Merit from King Harald V

▶**Partnership of..., P 5**

New Kerala govt okays free bus rides for women

VD Satheesan, 61, took oath as Kerala CM before huge crowds in Thiruvananthapuram Monday, leading UDF back to office after a decade in the presence of Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge, Rahul Gandhi, and CM Siddaramaiah. His govt announced welfare measures, administrative changes, and free travel for women in Kerala state RTC buses from June 15. **P 7**

Talks fail, unions firm on bus strike from May 20

Bengaluru: Bus services across Karnataka are likely to be disrupted from May 20 as transport employees' unions prepare for an indefinite strike after conciliation talks with state-run corporations failed on Monday.

At the meeting convened by the labour commissioner, union representatives maintained that they would not compromise on the implementation date, insisting that the revised wage hike of 25% must take effect from Jan 1, 2024. However, they indicated willingness to negotiate on the percentage of the increase.

The unions have also demanded that pending salary arrears be paid without any deductions. TNN

SEEK 25% HIKE

- Unions want 25% wage hike from Jan 1, 2024; **govt offers 12.5% from April 1, 2025**
- **Indicate willingness to negotiate hike percentage**, but stern on implementation date
- **Urge CM to intervene** and resolve issue at the earliest
- KSRTC officials say **next round of talks on May 25**

▶**No consensus, P 3**

Tourist crushed as jumbo falls on her at Dubare camp

Bengaluru/Madikeri: A woman tourist from Tamil Nadu was killed after a male captive elephant attacked another at the popular Dubare elephant camp near Kushalnagara in Kodagu district Monday, with the victim getting trapped under the second jumbo as it fell while trying to evade the attack.

The victim, Jinsu (33), was a resident of Pallavaram in Chennai. Her husband Joel, an engineer, and their five-year-old daughter Jersey escaped with minor injuries in the chaos that unfolded around 11.15am while visitors were bathing the jumbos in Cauvery river at the camp. TNN

Marthanda was attacked by Kanjan, who had run amok before 2024 Dasara festivities in Mysuru

▶**Shut for 2 days, P 3**

6 LAYER PACKAGING
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ADULTERANTS • HORMONES • AFLATOXIN • ANTIBIOTICS
TESTED FOR AHAA
Nestlé a+
Slim Milk
Fat free, naturally nutritious
11% OF DAILY PROTEIN REQUIREMENT*
19% OF DAILY CALCIUM REQUIREMENT*
Nestlé a+
Toned Milk
Delicious, high quality milk
61 QUALITY CHECKS
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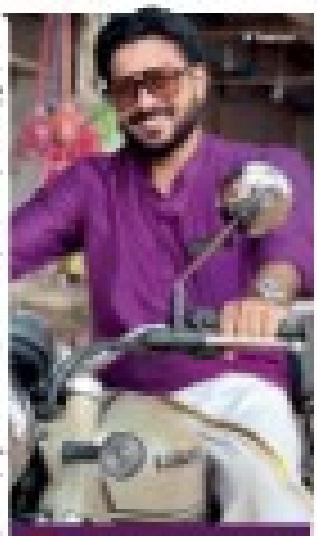
Nestlé Good food, Good life

Bangalore Times

Success can become a trap if you start repeating yourself: JP Thuminad



It's important to not be available always: Pankaj

14 YEARS LATER

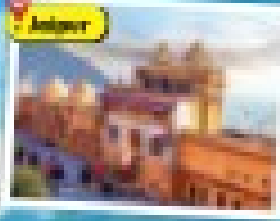
Cannes, Indian cinema and Kashyap's views remain much the same

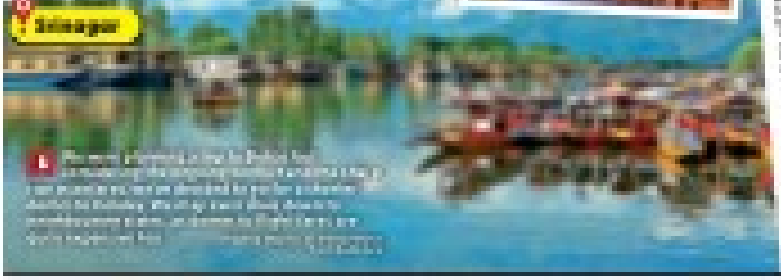
P6

VOICES

There can be no reasonable explanation for this genocide. I believe that those who are drawing up the so-called blueprints will actually be exposed and they will be the ones suffering the so-called consequences

Foreign trips on pause? Check out these Indian swaps





Think before you snack: Namkeens & dairy products top list of unsafe foods

Jahnavi@timesofindia.com

Bengaluru: Think twice before reaching for your favourite namkeen or savoury/salted snacks. Namkeens such as boondi, sev, chips and chow chow mixture, along with dairy products, emerged as the most unsafe food items in Karnataka in 2025-26, according to Food Safety and Drug Administration (FSDA).

The findings came after the department analysed as many as 35,639 food samples across the state, including 9,233 collected during 39 special drives conducted across different food categories and businesses.

The findings stem from an extensive statewide exercise in which the department analysed 35,639 food samples, including 9,233 collected during 39 special enforcement drives targeting different food categories and businesses.

Among the biggest concerns flagged by officials were brightly coloured namkeens and mixtures sold across the state. Out of 356 namkeen samples tested, 77 were declared unsafe, while 69 out of 274 mixture samples failed safety standards. According to FSDA officials, many of these snacks contained excessive synthetic colours which are used to make items more visually appealing.

"Most of these items were termed unsafe as they had used synthetic colours like sunset yellow and others to add the red or yellow colour to make it more attractive to consumers. Excessive consumption of these colours can lead to stomach and skin infections," a senior official said. Apart from snacks, spices too showed violations during inspections.

The department analysed 631 samples of whole and powdered spices, of which 42 were found unsafe and 14 categorised as substandard.

Dairy products another worry

Dairy products remained another major focus area for the department throughout the year amid growing concerns over the safety and quality of milk and paneer. In Hassan district's Channarayapatna taluk, officials conducted a special drive on butter-selling outlets after noticing that many consumers were purchasing products marketed as "pure butter". During the inspection, 13 butter samples were collected and analysed, of which nine were found to be substandard due to low fat content.

A similar inspection drive was carried out across 31 private dairies in Kolar district. Out of 48 milk samples studied, 18 were declared substandard because the fat content was below prescribed levels.

Photo for representation

Many items were declared unsafe due to the use of synthetic colours

In another large-scale drive conducted with the support of the Karnataka Milk Federation (KMF), officials analysed microbiological parameters in milk samples collected directly from dairy societies rather than packaged products sold in stores. In this inspection, 204 milk samples were found unsafe for consumption while 20 were categorised as substandard.

According to FSDA officials, milk fat content in some private dairies in Kolar and Channarayapatna was found to be as low as 3.85% to 3.9%, whereas it should ideally remain above 4%. Officials said this could happen for several reasons, including milk from Holstein Friesian (HF) cows naturally having lower fat content compared with Gir and Jersey breeds. However, authorities also suspect dilution of milk and urea adulteration in some cases. Legal action has been initiated against the violators, officials said.

OTHER SAMPLES TESTED IN 2025-26

Food item	Samples analysed	Unsafe	Substandard
Pulses	328	21	2
Cakes	294	5	4
Dates & raisins	326	3	5
Water	303	26	9
Ghee	167	2	1
Salt	181	-	20
Sweets	391	3	-

Source: FSDA

Out of 356 namkeen samples tested, 77 were declared unsafe, while 69 out of 274 mixture samples failed safety standards. Many had excessive synthetic colours

Reuse of cooking oil

The department intensified checks on reuse of cooking oil in roadside eateries. During one such special drive, 99 roadside dhabas were inspected and fines of Rs 3.7 lakh were imposed against violators. Out of 153 used cooking oil samples analysed across the state, 15 were found unsafe while five were categorised as substandard.

390 outlets in trouble

Based on violations under Food Safety and Standards Act, cases were filed against 390 food businesses in the court of the additional deputy commissioner and against 197 businesses in JMFC (Judicial Magistrate First Class) courts in 2025-26. The department imposed penalties amounting to Rs 77 lakh during the year.

Growth in food business

Despite the violations, Karnataka also recorded major growth in the food business sector in 2025-26, with 3.83 lakh new food businesses being registered and licensed during the year, generating revenue of over Rs 25 crore for the state, according to officials.

ORR concrete push to bring IT CORRIDOR TO A CRAWL

Concretisation Planned Over 1-Year Period

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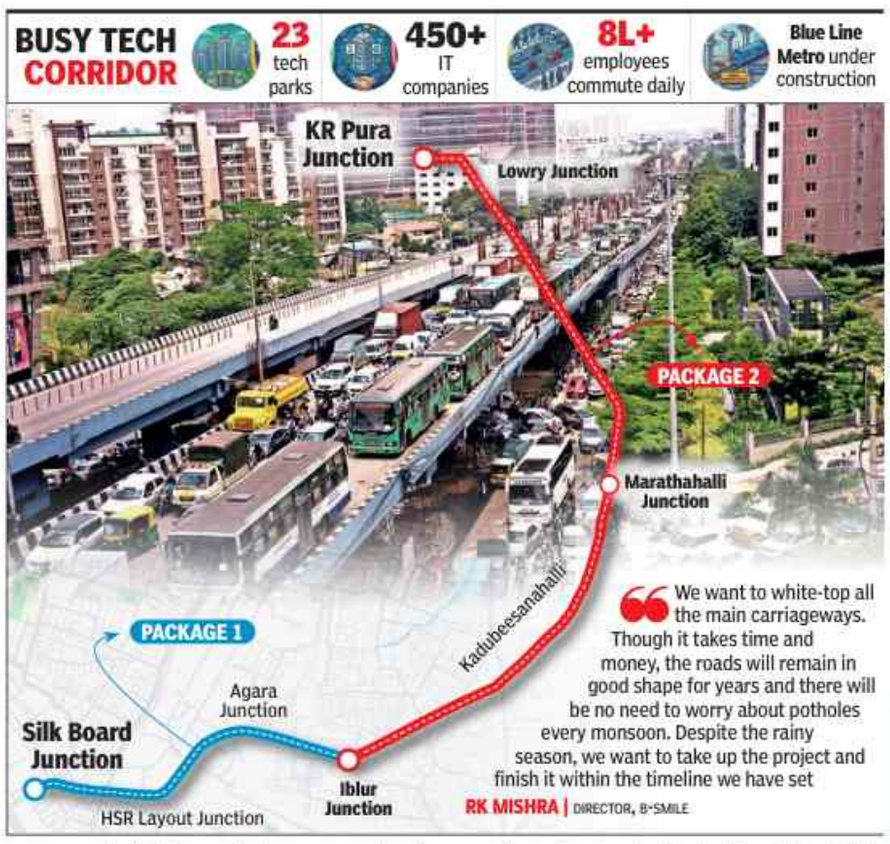
BUSY TECH CORRIDOR
23 tech parks
450+ IT companies
8L+ employees commute daily
Blue Line Metro under construction
KR Pura Junction
Lowry Junction
PACKAGE 2
Marathahalli Junction
Kadubeesanahalli
PACKAGE 1
Agara Junction
Silk Board Junction
Iblur Junction
HSR Layout Junction
We want to white-top all the main carriageways. Though it takes time and money, the roads will remain in good shape for years and there will be no need to worry about potholes every monsoon. Despite the rainy season, we want to take up the project and finish it within the timeline we have set
RK MISHRA | DIRECTOR, B-SMILE

Bengaluru: The main carriageway of the Outer Ring Road (ORR) tech corridor is set to be ripped open for concretisation, with work expected to last at least a year and trigger major disruption along one of the city's busiest corridors.

Under the Rs 378-crore redevelopment project, the existing tar stretch from Silk Board Junction to KR Pura will be dug up and replaced with 190mm-thick concrete roads for 17.1km, as part of a large-scale corridor overhaul.

According to officials from Bengaluru Smart Infrastructure Ltd (B-Smile), the tender process is in its final stages, with two bidders in the fray. While the technical bid process has been completed, the project has now moved to the financial bid stage and work is expected to begin soon.

Officials from B-Smile said the official completion target is one year, though efforts are being made to finish the project within nine months. Despite monsoon approaching, officials said work will not be delayed until the end of the rainy season, arguing that immediate execution is necessary to complete the project on time and avoid prolonged disruption once Namma Metro services become operational along the corridor.

According to the detailed project report (DPR), concretisation of the main carriageway and junction improvements alone account for almost Rs 108 crore, making it the single largest component of the project. The redevelopment spans 17.1km and will be executed in two parts — a 5.4km stretch from Silk Board to Iblur and an 11.6km one from Iblur to KR Pura — while also upgrading six major junctions, including Silk Board, HSR, Agara, Iblur, Marathahalli, and Lowry junctions.

The disruption could significantly impact the city's busiest tech corridor, home to 23 tech parks and more than 450 IT companies, with more than eight lakh employees commuting through the stretch daily. While there is no clarity yet on whether tech parks will introduce staggered timings or hybrid work measures, the scale of commuter inconvenience is expected to be significant.

When **TOI** reached out to Bengaluru traffic police, officials said alternative traffic arrangements would be worked out in consultation with stakeholders. However, they added that discussions on diversions are yet to formally begin.

The DPR also includes Rs 48.4 crore for service road reconstruction, Rs 17.4 crore for footpath upgrade, Rs 16.7 crore for street lighting, and Rs 9.8 crore for drainage improvements to support the corridor overhaul. The project also proposes rebuilding service roads, dedicated cycle-track space wherever feasible, and new brushed concrete footpaths with utility ducts for electrical and optical fibre cables beneath them.

In addition, new bus shelters, road signage, lane markings, raised pavement markers, drain inlets, utility chambers and improved illumination for both carriageways and pedestrian paths are planned as part of the revamp. However, concretisation of the main carriageway is expected to be the most disruptive phase, with commuters likely to face dug-up roads, lane restrictions, and congestion for months.

Service road work first

In order to manage traffic during the redevelopment project, all the work that needs to be taken up on the service roads, including drain, utility and footpath works, will be taken up first. Once the service road work is completed, traffic is expected to be allowed onto it when work on the main carriageway starts. It is also expected that by the time the service roads are completed, Namma Metro's Blue Line should become operational, said officials.

"The main roads will be the last ones to be touched after all the other work is over," said B-Smile director RK Mishra. Confirming the ORR concretisation project, Mishra said it is at the tendering stage and there will be no change of plans.

WHERE MONEY WILL BE SPENT

- Concretisation of main carriageway & junction upgrade: ₹108cr
- Service road reconstruction: ₹48.4cr
- Footpath improvements: ₹17.4cr
- HDPE utility ducts below footpaths: ₹17cr
- Street lighting: ₹16.7cr
- Service road median improvements: ₹15.2cr
- Road signage, markings & paintings: ₹15.8cr
- Drain improvement works: ₹9.8cr
- Development of open spaces: ₹5cr
- Flyover/ underpass aesthetic improvements: ₹5cr
- Bridge near Rainbow Hospital (construction/widening): ₹11cr
- Traffic diversions, barricading & preliminary works: ₹6cr
- GST (18%): ₹47.9cr
- Tender premium: ₹13.3cr

TOTAL PROJECT COST ₹378cr

Solar energy can fully power Metro Blue Line: IISc study

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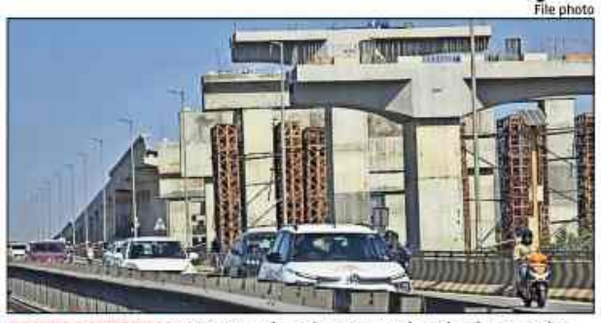
File photo



GREEN POTENTIAL: Metro work underway on Blue Line in Bengaluru

Bengaluru: A technical and commercial feasibility study conducted by Indian Institute of Science's Sustainable Transportation Lab has found that the upcoming Blue Line of Namma Metro could be fully powered by solar energy.

The corridor, once completed, will be 55km long and will stretch from Central Silk Board to Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) in north Bengaluru.

The report, Assessing the potential of directly using solar power to run the operations of Blue Line of Namma Metro,' claims land already owned by Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Ltd (BMRCL) is enough for the shift.

The study, conducted between Aug 2025 and March 2026 in collaboration with BMRCL, was privately funded by HSBC Ltd under its corporate social responsibility (CSR) programme. It was carried out across all four construction packages, covering interface design and substation audit, traction power system modelling, solar resource mapping, and train traction performance alongside scenario analysis.

Depending on BMRCL's approved simulation reports, the study factored in 21 trains running at two-minute headway. It also mapped physical solar resources across all 30 stations, elevated viaducts, and depot rooftops.

It revealed that by installing solar panels on station rooftops, elevated viaduct parapets, and depot roofs, BMRCL can generate enough power to meet the corridor's entire annual energy demand. The initial capacity will easily be consumed during daytime operations, eliminating the risk of sending power back into the grid and instantly wiping out over a third of the corridor's annual energy bills.

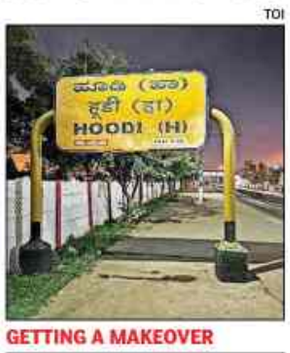
Justifying the economic investment required, the study stated: "All 30 stations are elevated... accommodating up to 50,000 solar panels at 29.7MWp total capacity. This Phase 1 investment of Rs 48 crore to Rs 63 crore generates Rs 36.4 crore in annual electricity savings from year 1, with a simple payback of under two years and a 25-year net present value of Rs 370-385 crore." It further found that a full corridor deployment would deliver Rs 61 crore in annual savings.

"The Blue Line has exceptional solar potential, a traction system designed to accommodate it and a regulatory framework that already supports deployment. The economics are decisive. This is not a research aspiration — it is a ready-to-tender infrastructure investment that will deliver returns for decades," said Ashish Verma, convener of the Sustainable Transportation Lab.

Hoodi station closed for Memu trains; platforms to be razed

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

TOI



GETTING A MAKEOVER

Bengaluru: Hoodi railway halt, a key suburban station in east Bengaluru catering to short-distance Memu services, has been temporarily shut as part of the ongoing railway line quadrupling project between Whitefield and Cantonment.

South Western Railway (SWR) discontinued all passenger services at the station from Monday, with both platforms set to be demolished to facilitate expansion works. The 19km quadrupling project, estimated to cost Rs 492 crore, aims to ease rail congestion within Bengaluru and improve connectivity through major stations, including Bengaluru East, Byappanahalli, and KR Pura.

All 23 Memu trains that previously halted at Hoodi will now skip the station until reconstruction works are completed. SWR officials said demolition of the current platforms is expected to begin this week. Some of the affected Memu services include 66581 KSR Bengaluru-Bangarpet, 66587 Bengaluru Cantonment-Kolar, 16519 Jolarpettai-KSR Bengaluru, 66534 Krishnarajapuram-Kuppam, and 66556 KSR Bengaluru-Marikuppam.

"The two platforms here will be dismantled to accommodate the third and fourth line. Once that is completed, two platforms will be reconstructed and opened," an SWR official said, adding that no diversions have been planned for major trains operating on the route.

Though SWR has not officially announced a deadline for reopening the station, railway sources indicated the work is unlikely to be completed before the year-end. "The station could be reopened by early 2027," another official said.

At present, around 80 train services operate on the Cantonment-Whitefield section, where the average travel time is nearly 35 minutes. Railway officials expect the quadrupling project to reduce line crossings and improve train speed. The overall project is expected to be completed by March next year, after which SWR is likely to introduce additional Memu services towards Kolar, Bangarpet, and parts of Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh.

Detainee can't choose confinement place: HC

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: Unless there are exceptional circumstances, a detainee cannot dictate the place of his/her confinement, the high court said in a recent order. Justice Sachin Shankar Magadum made the observation on April 29 while dismissing a plea filed by Irfan Pasha alias Batan, under detention at Central Prison, Ballari.

On April 6, the ADGP (law and order) passed an order under Prevention of Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1988, directing that the petitioner be kept under preventive detention. Based on the direction, Pasha was kept in central prison.

In his petition, Pasha claimed since he is from Mysuru district, he should be transferred to KR Nagar Jail or Nanjangud Jail, primarily on the ground that he was suffering from ailments that need periodic medical attention. According to him, facilities would be more accessible if he was lodged in a prison nearer to his hometown.

Justice Sachin Shankar Magadum noted that Pasha was alleged to be involved in drug-peddling activities over a period of time. The objective of placing a detainee in prison away from his area of operation is to disrupt the chain of contacts and break the local nexus, the judge pointed out. In the case on hand, the only ground cited was the petitioner was suffering from certain ailments and required medical attention. However, no material of such compelling nature was placed on record to indicate adequate medical facilities were unavailable in Ballari, the judge added.

72-yr-old convict denied parole

The high court has dismissed a parole plea filed by 72-year-old convict Ambarish S Kapadia, lodged at Central Prison, Bengaluru, observing that long incarceration alone can't justify temporary release.

Kapadia, a Mumbai resident, had sought two months' parole citing 14 years in jail and alleged inaction on his earlier application after being shifted to Ahmedabad prison in a CBI case.

CBI said Kapadia was convicted in six cases, making him ineligible for parole under the Karnataka Prison Rules. Rejecting the petition, the court noted his repeated involvement in serious economic offences, and said his antecedents and the gravity of offences outweighed the prolonged imprisonment claim. TNN

Man, 30, dies at rehab centre

Bengaluru: A 30-year-old pourakarmika died under suspicious circumstances at a rehabilitation centre in Kengeri, with family members alleging the staff assaulted him in front of his nephew and other relatives.

The deceased, Ramesh, a resident of Gavipuram in south Bengaluru, was a chronic alcoholic. His family had admitted him to Poornapragna Rehab Foundation two months ago. His nephew, Ajay, and two other relatives were admitted to the same rehab centre.

Ajay alleged that on Sunday, the rehab centre staff assaulted Ramesh over a trivial issue. He claimed Ramesh was beaten on the chest and legs using pipes. The rehab centre employees allegedly informed the family that Ramesh had complained of chest pain and was being shifted to a hospital early Monday. However, they later claimed he died on the way to hospital.

Police said Ramesh had complained of chest pain Sunday evening, which was allegedly neglected by the staff as they suspected he was making excuses to get out of the centre. Later at night, they gave him a gastric tablet, and when he felt uneasy in the early hours, they rushed him to the hospital. A case of causing death by negligence has been registered against rehab owner Prakash and others. TNN

Boy, 2, swallows gooseberry, dies

A two-year-old boy died after choking on a wild gooseberry (bettada nelikayi) at Malur in Kolar district Monday afternoon.

Police said the victim, Vijayendra, accidentally swallowed the large gooseberry while playing at home. The boy soon began struggling to breathe, prompting his parents to rush him to the govt hospital in Malur, where doctors declared him dead.

Vijayendra's parents, Ravi and Mala, are roadside vendors who earn a living selling vegetables. Mala had brought the gooseberries home to prepare juice when the toddler accidentally swallowed one of them. Dr R Srinivas, administrative medical officer at govt hospital, Malur, said the child died before reaching the hospital and, therefore, no emergency treatment could be administered. TNN

City's thirst intensifies amid poor rain forecast

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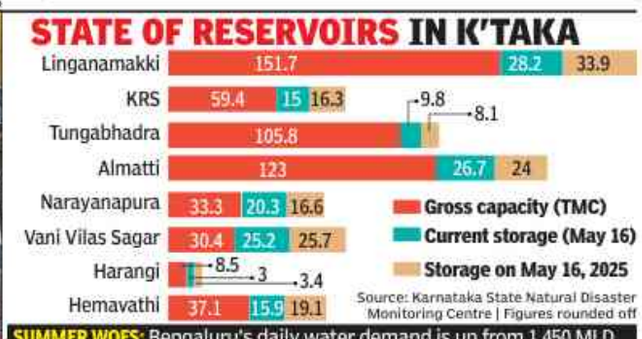
File photo


STATE OF RESERVOIRS IN K'TAKA
Linganamakki 151.7 28.2 33.9
KRS 59.4 15 16.3 9.8 8.1
Tungabhadra 105.8
Almatti 123 26.7 24
Narayanapura 33.3 20.3 16.6
Vani Vilas Sagar 30.4 25.2 25.7
Harangi 8.5 3 3.4
Hemavathi 37.1 15.9 19.1
Gross capacity (TMC)
Current storage (May 16)
Storage on May 16, 2025
Source: Karnataka State Natural Disaster Monitoring Centre | Figures rounded off

SUMMER WOES: Bengaluru's daily water demand is up from 1,450 MLD in April 2025 to nearly 1,950 MLD now, rising by 100 MLD each month

Bengaluru: As summer tightens its grip and reservoir levels across Karnataka continue to fall, Bengaluru's thirst is rising at an alarming pace, with the city consuming nearly 500 MLD more water than it did during the same period last year. The sharp spike in demand, coupled with rapidly depleting reservoir storage, has triggered fresh concerns over the city's water security.

The daily water demand has risen by nearly 100 MLD every month, recording an average increase of 5–10% from last year. While Bengaluru consumed around 1,450 MLD in April 2025, the demand has now climbed to nearly 1,950 MLD, largely driven by the addition of Cauvery Stage V connections and rising summer temperatures.

Despite the spike in consumption, Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) officials said the current water availability is adequate. BWSSB chairman Ram Prasanth Manohar said, "Irrespective of the levels, the overall water availability is sufficient. At the current storage level, we have enough capacity to manage until monsoon begins. There should not be any major issue, and govt is very clear that drinking water supply must not be affected," he said, adding that strict action against misuse and wastage of drinking water is continuing.

Levels fall in state

However, reservoir levels across Karnataka have dropped significantly. Data from Karnataka State Natural Disaster Monitoring Centre (KSNDMC) shows overall reservoir storage in the state has fallen to 27% from 43% recorded in April. Hydel reservoirs are currently at 22% capacity. Cauvery basin reservoirs at 34% and Krishna at 25%. Cauvery basin presently holds 39.5 tmcft of water, lower than 47 tmcft available during the same period last year, while Krishna basin storage has marginally improved to 106.2 tmcft. Hydel reservoirs stand at 71 tmcft.

The revenue department has prepared a contingency distress plan in the event of delayed or deficient monsoon rain. Officials said measures under consideration include reserving water exclusively for drinking purposes, identifying private borewells and deploying tankers in vulnerable areas. A senior revenue department official said restrictions on irrigation may be imposed if rainfall remains below normal. "We have already identified vulnerable villages, gram panchayats, urban wards and districts likely to face shortages, including parts of Bengaluru, North Karnataka, Hyderabad-Karnataka, and South Karnataka," the official said.

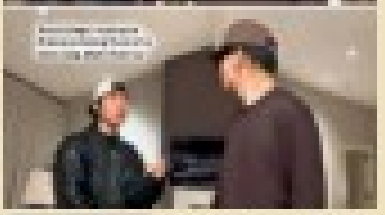
Officials added that private borewells and tanker operators have been mapped as a precautionary measure. "These steps will be activated only if rains are delayed or fail. The situation is not alarming at present," the official clarified.

With MJ moves and melody, Ajaneesh rocks his first concert

A

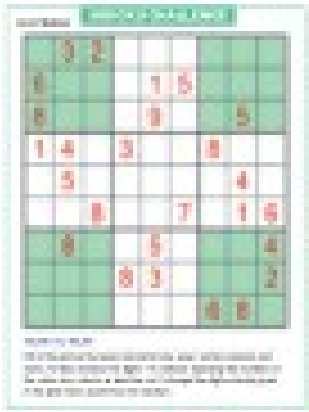
A Drake and BTS crossover? What multiverse is this

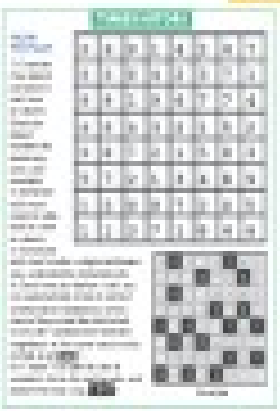
A

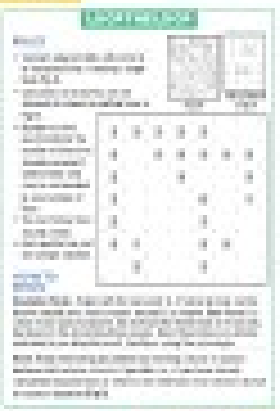


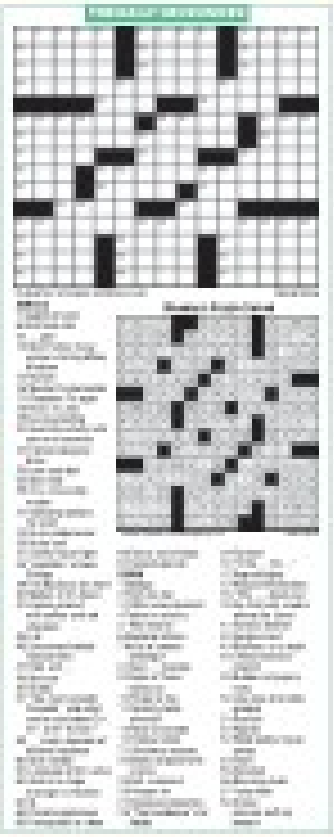
QUICK TAKE

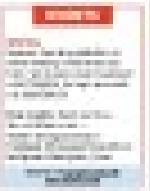
LEISURE

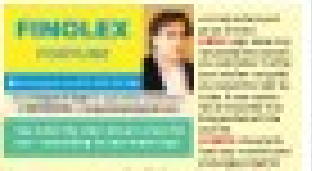


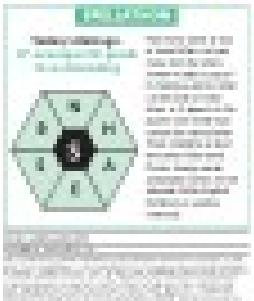


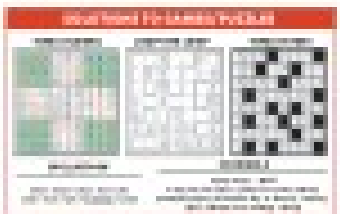












DUBARE TRAGEDY FALLOUT

TOI

Ban on tourists feeding, bathing jumbos in K'taka

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Bengaluru: Close on the heels of the death of a tourist during a clash between two elephants at Dubare elephant camp in Kodagu, the forest department has imposed sweeping restrictions on tourist interactions with captive jumbos across all 14 elephant camps in Karnataka. The new measures include a complete ban on feeding, bathing and taking photographs with elephants from close quarters.

Forest minister Eshwar Khandre Monday directed officials to enforce a minimum safety distance of 100 feet between tourists and elephants at all camps. Tourists will now only be permitted to watch elephants bathe from designated viewing zones.

The minister also ordered the preparation of a comprehensive standard operating procedure for visitor safety at elephant camps, similar to the recently introduced safety guidelines for eco-tourism trekking trails in the state. Officials have been instructed to prioritise crowd management and regulate tourist movement around captive animals.

The restrictions came just hours after a 33-year-old tourist from Chennai lost her life in a freak incident at the popular Dubare camp.

The woman died after getting trapped under an elephant during a sudden fight between two captive tuskers, Kanchan and Marthanda, while tourists were participating in elephant bathing activities in Cauvery river.

Describing the incident as "deeply shocking and unfortunate," Khandre said the tragedy underscored the unpredictable nature of wildlife, even when animals are trained and kept in captivity for years. "Understanding the behaviour of elephants and other wildlife is extremely difficult. Their instincts remain intact despite training. Henceforth, tourists should not touch elephant trunks, stand beside elephants for photographs, bathe them or feed them bananas, jaggery or sugarcane," the minister said.

Kumar Pushkar, principal chief conservator of forests and chief wildlife warden, said the new directives will fundamentally change how elephant camps function across Karnataka.

"Tourists will only be allowed to observe elephants from a safe distance. Any direct physical interaction with the animals will be completely prohibited," Pushkar said. He added the department has ordered an inquiry to ascertain the exact sequence of events that led to the fatal incident at Dubare and identify any possible lapses. The incident has also revived concerns among wildlife conservationists over growing commercialisation and overcrowding at elephant camps and eco-tourism sites.

Sanjay Gubbi of Holematthi Nature Foundation said close-contact wildlife tourism posed serious risks both to humans and animals. "These are wild animals and their behaviour can be unpredictable. Excessive tourism and overcrowding make it difficult for mahouts and officials to enforce safety protocols. Such close-contact tourism involving wildlife should be stopped immediately," he explained.

Case of aggression

The aggressive behaviour displayed by elephant Kanchan at Dubare Monday was not an isolated incident. The tusker had earlier made headlines during the world-famous Mysuru Dasara celebrations in 2024 after a tense altercation with another elephant, Dhananjaya, near the Mysore Palace premises. The situation had triggered panic among devotees and tourists after Kanchan broke free from the enclosure while trying to evade Dhananjaya's attack.

The elephant ran amok for a brief period, damaging steel barricades and sending the festive crowd in the vicinity into a state of panic.

Jumbos not in musth: Officials

Amid rumours that the two elephants involved in the Dubare incident were in musth — a periodic condition in male elephants marked by a surge in reproductive hormones and heightened aggression — forest officials clarified that neither Kanchan (tusker) nor Marthanda (Makhna — male without tusks) was undergoing the phase.

Madikeri DCF Abhishek said both elephants were not in musth at the time of the incident. Chief wildlife warden Kumar Pushkar also stated that three other elephants at the camp that were in musth had been isolated at a separate facility and were not brought to the tourist area.

Preliminary findings suggest Marthanda may have been preventing Kanchan from approaching a female elephant, possibly triggering the aggression.

Camp shut for two days

▶Continued from page 1

At Dubare elephant camp, tourists are allowed, in batches and on a first-come-first-served basis, to touch, scrub, bathe and feed the jumbos as part of an immersive wildlife experience.

Jinsu and her family, along with several others, were near 35-year-old elephant Marthanda in the shallow waters, ready to splash water on the jumbo when disaster struck.

Officials said 28-year-old tusker Kanjan, which was present near Marthanda, a makhna (male without tusk), suddenly turned aggressive and charged at the other elephant.

As panic-stricken tourists ran for safety, Jinsu got trapped between Marthanda's front legs.

When Kanjan charged yet again, Marthanda tried to move away, but lost balance and fell on Jinsu, pinning her beneath its belly and causing severe head injuries. She succumbed to injuries on the way to hospital.

Hundreds of tourists were present at the camp when the incident occurred. It took nearly 10 minutes for the elephant handlers to bring the situation under control, after which tourists were evacuated and the camp was shut for two days. The incident has once again put the spotlight on safety arrangements at Dubare, one of Karnataka's most-visited wildlife tourism centres.

(With inputs from G Rajendra)

Minister warns of action against employees taking part in bus stir

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: Transport minister Ramalinga Reddy Monday warned employees of state-run road transport corporations against participating in the statewide bus strike scheduled for Wednesday, stating that disciplinary action will be initiated against those abstaining from duty.

The warning comes after the joint action committee (JAC) of transport unions decided to go ahead with the agitation over wage revision demands. Explaining govt's stand, Reddy said salary revisions for transport corporation employees are typically undertaken once in every four years. However, the revision due during Covid-19 period was deferred by the previous BJP regime, he claimed.

According to the minister, BJP govt implemented a wage revision in 2023 with prospective effect, under which the next salary revision is scheduled only for 2027. He said unions are opposing this framework and demanding retrospective implementation of the wage hike. Reddy said after Congress govt assumed office, several rounds of discussions were held with union representatives. "Taking into account the financial condition of transport corporations, govt decided to prepone the wage revision to April 1, 2025, effectively advancing it by two years," he said. Despite this concession, unions insisted the revised pay structure be implemented from Jan 1, 2024. The minister maintained the govt had taken "proactive and financially calibrated measures," but alleged that unions are unwilling to arrive at a consensus.

Transport unions, however, argued the govt's stand violated established wage revision norms and deprived employees of nearly 15 months of salary benefits.

'No work, no pay rule will be applicable'

Transport corporation managements warned employees against participating in the strike, directing all depots to operate services as scheduled and enforce "no work, no pay" rules for absentees.

An official said govt has invoked provisions of Essential Services Maintenance Act (ESMA), prohibiting KSRTC and BMTC staff from joining the strike. Officials said bus services are essential, and participation in the strike will invite disciplinary action.

KSRTC management has sent messages to the mobile numbers of employees as well as trainees, urging them not to join the strike. The corporation has 14,000 trainee bus crew and over 7,000 outsourced staff.

File photo

Transport unions allege the govt's stand violated established wage revision norms and deprived employees of 15 months of benefits

No consensus now; next round of talks on May 25

▶Continued from page 1

The meeting was attended by representatives of the joint action committee (JAC) of trade unions and officials of Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) and Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC).

However, the discussions ended without a breakthrough.

Following the failure of talks, JAC office-bearers said the proposed statewide strike will go ahead as scheduled unless state govt addresses employees' demands by Tuesday. They urged the CM to resolve the issue at the earliest.

Officials said the next round of talks will be held on May 25. KSRTC managing director Akram Pasha said when conciliation talks are under way, unions cannot resort to a strike.

"The CM has already held four rounds of meetings with union representatives, while transport minister Ramalinga Reddy has had five rounds. We will take action if they resort to a strike."

DGP dismisses rumours of Darshan's jail suicide attempt

Bengaluru: Director-general of prisons and correctional services Alok Kumar Monday dismissed as "completely baseless" rumours claiming that actor **Darshan Thoogudeepa** had tried to kill himself in Bengaluru Central Prison.

Alok Kumar clarified there was no such incident and appealed to the actor's fans not to believe in such false information. "The rumours (of Darshan trying to harm himself) are far from the truth. He is doing fine," the DGP said.

Darshan, lodged in prison in connection with the sensational Renukaswamy murder case, has written to the prison superintendent seeking permission to meet his wife, Vijayalakshmi.

Vijayalakshmi also met Alok Kumar to request for the private meeting ahead of their wedding anniversary. Authorities said a decision will be taken as per prison rules. Alok Kumar said Vijayalakshmi was emotional during the meeting, especially after Supreme Court recently rejected Darshan's bail plea. She also shared a post on Instagram expressing her feelings during the difficult phase. TNN

Driver found dead in parked car

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: A 37-year-old cab driver was found dead inside his parked car, with the air-conditioner running, near Nelagedarahalli in north Bengaluru Monday morning.

The deceased, Puneeth, was a resident of HMT Layout and a native of Channarayapatna in Hassan district. He came to Bengaluru a month ago and was working as a cab driver for a private firm. He had parked the car by the roadside around 10am. Residents noticed the vehicle was stationary for a long time and grew suspicious.

Around noon, a few locals approached the vehicle to check on the driver. They found him lying motionless inside the locked car. As there was no response, they broke open the window using a stone and opened the door. Puneeth was found unconscious inside the vehicle and shifted to a nearby hospital with the help of police. Doctors later confirmed he had died of cardiac arrest.

Man kills mother

A woman was murdered allegedly by her son on suspicion of infidelity. Police arrested four family members, including the son, for committing the murder and attempting to destroy evidence.

The incident was reported at Madalli village Sunday.

Mysuru SP Mallikarjun Baladandi said the deceased is Sudha, 48. Her son, Veerabhadra, 32, allegedly attacked and killed her near their house while she was working Sunday morning. TNN

Banking student found hanging in hostel

Bengaluru: A 24-year-old graduate who was undergoing a course for banking and insurance-related exams at a private institute in Amruthahalli allegedly killed himself in his hostel room Monday evening.

The deceased is Chinnu Kumar, a native of Uttar Pradesh. Based on preliminary investigation, police said Kumar was studying at the institute and had appeared for the exam four times and not cleared them. It appears that he was depressed over his academics, and hence, he hanged himself in the room.

His friends untied the noose and alerted the hostel warden. Kumar was rushed to a nearby hospital, which refused to examine him due to a lack of facilities. He was taken to another hospital, where doctors declared him dead. A senior officer said the incident happened between 4pm and 4.30pm. The information was received at the police station around 6.30pm. His parents have been contacted. "As of now, we haven't found any death note," police said. The students at the institute alleged that Kumar killed himself due to pressure and harassment by the management. But police are yet to receive an official complaint about harassment. TNN

If you are having suicidal thoughts or are in need of emotional support, call suicide prevention helplines: Tele-MANAS helpline: 14416 or 1800-891-4416, SAHAI Helpline: 080-25497777.

TIMES NIE CONGRATULATES SCHOOL TOPPERS OF CBSE CLASS 12 EXAMS 2025-26 AND EXTENDS BEST WISHES FOR THE FUTURE

CBSE — SCIENCE

SCHOOL	TOPPER
AECS Magnolia Maaruti Public School	Gudala Satya Yeshasw
Air Force School, ASTE	Niviksha Sumana Reddy
Air Force School, Hebbal	Apurva S and Reuben Thomas
Air Force School, Jalahalli East	Bhaskar Kumar
Alpine Public School	R Krishna Kanth
Amara Jyothi Public School	Prajal Jha
Army Public School, Kamaraj Road	Ayushmann
Army Public School, PRTC	Sweta Yadav
BGS International Residential School, Kumbalgodu	Prisha M Gowda
Bhavan Bangalore Press School, Chamarajpet	Kalyani Anish
BVM Global School	Sachi Pampattiwar
Capstone High School	Ananya Mohan
Chrysalis High School, Yelahanka	Rushitha Muppala
Chrysalis High, Kadugodi	Shriya Kumari
Deens Academy, Gunjur campus	Adya Tyagi
Delhi Public School, Bangalore East	Abigail Varghese
Delhi Public School, Electronics City	Asimanshu Samal
Delhi Public School, North	Asbah Sahar Imteyaz
Delhi Public School, Whitefield	Atharv Gupta
Delhi Public School, Bangalore South	Neha Injeti
Edify School, Kanakapura Road	Raghavendra Singh Rajpurohit
Euro School, North campus	Anvita Shyam
Euro School, Whitefield	Ananya Karthy Deepak
Euro School, Chimney Hills	Skanda Prasad N
Freedom International School	Shyamak Deb
GEAR Innovative International School	Tisha Deb
Geethanjali Vidyalaya	Krishna Kaushik Mallela
Global City International School, CBSE	Krishna Magesh
Global Indian Intl School, Whitefield campus	Drishti Gouri
HAL Public School	Haridev AS
Harvest International School, Kodathi	Ankitha MG
Jain Heritage School, Hebbal	Kannamukkala Adithi Reddy
Kendriya Vidyalaya, ASC Centre	Dhruv Choudhary
Kendriya Vidyalaya, DRDO	Ewan Justepher
Kensri School & College	Kartik Kala
KMV Red Hills Senior Secondary School, Chikkabanavara	Sharon
Lake Montfort School	Jovin JC
Nagarjuna Vidyaniketan	Abhay Kowndinyaa
National Academy for Learning, Bangalore North	Indupriya Gangarapu
National Centre for Excellence, CVR	Shreya Tarafder
National Hill View Public School, RR Nagar	Vishwas S
National Public School, Agara	S Rithikka
National Public School, Banashankari	Rishon Jerrin Komban
National Public School, Chikkabanavara	Anuj Mishra
National Public School, HSR Layout	Aarush Pandey
National Public School, Indiranagar	Abhijay Sarmah & Siddhartha Raghavan
National Public School, ITPL	Vritee Saproo
National Public School, Jayanagar	Avyukth Tayur
National Public School, Kengeri	Pranit Goel
National Public School, Koramangala	Maheshwar M and Adwait Amit Ranade
National Public School, Rajajinagar	Shankara Panch
National Public School, Whitefield	Aditya Deepak Avadhani
National Public School, Yeshwantpur	M Shifan Khan
Navkis Educational Centre, Gokula	Aarush Pai
New Baldwin International School, Banaswadi	Tejas Prakash
Presidency School, Bangalore East	Joel Jerry Alappat
Presidency School, Bangalore South	Johann Job
Presidency School, Bangalore North	Ishanvi Tandon
PSBB Learning Leadership Academy, Bannerghatta Road	Harsitha Karthikeyan & Srihari T Kumar
Rashtriya Military School	Ishant Yadav
School of India	Yaashi Sharma
Shishya BEML Public School	Krishna Konda Balaji
Sindhi High School, Hebbal	Akhila Vipin Madangarli
Sree Ayyappa Education Centre, Medarahalli	Mahesh P
Sri Sri Ravishankar Vidya Mandir, Bangalore East	Varsha Satish
Sri Sri Ravishankar Vidya Mandir, Vidyaranyapura	Saicharan R
St Joseph's School, Vittal Mallya Road	Sanjiv D
Soundarya Central School, Chikkabanavara	Aneesh Sagar Naidu
The Brigade School, JP Nagar	Tushar Sudeep
The Brigade School, Mahadevapura	Sachin Senthilvasan
The Brigade School, Malleswaram	Divi Kishore
The Cambridge International School, Haralur	Abhay Simha Iyengar
The Deens Academy, Whitefield campus	Vidyut Ramakrishnan
The Foundation School	Adrita Tripathi
The Oxford Senior Secondary School	SMA Matheen
Vydehi School of Excellence	Kevin Mathew
Whitefield Global School	Keshav Maheshwari

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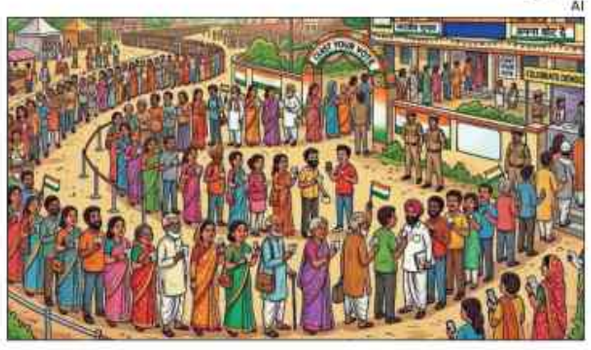
Panel chief: Synchronised elections can secure stability for 100 years

TIMES NEWS NEWORK

Bengaluru: PP Chaudhary, chairman of the Joint Parliamentary Committee examining the proposal for simultaneous Lok Sabha and assembly elections, said Monday that the One Nation, One Election (ONOE) model could provide India with a stable electoral framework for the next 100 years while reducing expenditure and improving voter participation.

AI



ONE NATION ONE ELECTION

The committee, which is studying the Constitution (129th Amendment) Bill, 2024, and the Union Territories Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2024, has been holding consultations in Bengaluru since Saturday. It held interaction with Padma awardees, media representatives.

Chaudhary said frequent elections across states disrupt governance and place a heavy burden on administrative machinery. "ONOE must be implemented. Holding state assembly and Lok Sabha elections at the same time is in the country's best interest. It will boost voter participation, especially among migrants and labourers," he added.

India witnesses 5-6 assembly elections every year, which affect governance, administration, education and the economy, he said. "Continuous elections also create uncertainty, which may make foreign investors hesitant to invest in India," he added.

Clarifying that simultaneous elections would not mean voting on a single day nationwide, Chaudhary said polls would still be conducted in phases according to the Election Commission's convenience.

> ONOE must be implemented. Holding state assembly and Lok Sabha elections at the same time is in the country's best interest. It will boost voter participation, especially among migrants and labourers
> **PP Chaudhary** | CHAIRMAN, JPC

He said the proposed system would reduce the burden on teachers, police personnel and election staff while ensuring migrant workers and labourers get an opportunity to vote. "Conducting elections simultaneously, though in multiple phases, would enable wider participation in the democratic process," he added.

The JPC chief said implementation would require coordination between the Election Commission, the Union home ministry and other agencies for EVM preparedness, postal ballots and election management. "If the committee's proposals satisfy everyone, it will become easier to implement ONOE," he said, adding that the move could significantly reduce taxpayer-funded election expenditure.

Chaudhary said the committee aims to build consensus for a law acceptable to all and beneficial to the country. He said all elections in the country could be synchronised into a single cycle by 2034 through phased alignment of assembly tenures. "For example, if a state has an election in 2032, its govt's term would be adjusted to end in 2034 to sync with the national schedule. This will require a constitutional amendment. Maintaining synchronised elections in a democracy is a challenging task," he said.

To address situations where a govt falls before completing its tenure, the committee may examine international models. "The committee may suggest adopting the German model or the Japanese model," he said, referring to systems where an alternative leader is chosen before or immediately after removing the incumbent govt.

He added that the anti-defection law may also need amendments to support the proposed framework. During the Bengaluru visit, the committee interacted with the Karnataka chief secretary, senior police officials and representatives from departments including finance, home, education, tourism, agriculture, industry, health and labour.

Cong seeks larger appellate network for SIR disputes

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Bengaluru: With the special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls set to begin on June 30, the governing Congress has turned its attention to the appellate mechanism that will handle disputes arising from the possible deletion of voter names.

The party said it is closely watching how many appellate tribunals or authorities will be available across Karnataka to hear grievances from voters who may be disenfranchised during the exercise.

Citing West Bengal as an example, Congress functionaries questioned whether a limited number of appellate forums could effectively deal with large volumes of cases linked to electoral roll revisions. "With only 19 tribunals, is it logical to consider that it could hear as many as 60 lakh voters' cases? There needs to be a scientific approach to the setting up of the tribunals. We are keenly watching this aspect of SIR," said Congress MLA Rizwan Arshad.

Congress chief whip in the legislative council, Salim Ahmed, said the party's concerns extended beyond any one community and included vulnerable populations in remote regions. "We expect there may be concerns even in the ST thandas and SC colonies as well, where SIR may disenfranchise the people. The tribunals need to be accessible even to those remote locations where people may face problems of having to prove their citizenship," Ahmed said.

BJP, however, dismissed fears over the appellate process and said the revision exercise would function smoothly. "The appellate tribunals are not likely to create any concerns to most citizens in the state as they will be swift in their action. Even in West Bengal, the tribunals were quite speedy in disposing of the cases and gave an opportunity to all to present their cases," said BJP state general secretary P Rajeev.

Amid the political debate, chief electoral officer V Anbukumar clarified the appellate framework is already provided under Representation of the People Act, 1954.

PARTIES RAISE DOCU CONCERNS

Political parties Monday raised concerns over documentation requirements and the impact of 2008 delimitation exercise during a meeting with chief electoral officer V Anbukumar on the special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls. During the briefing on SIR schedule, party representatives sought clarity on the documents required for adding family members in electoral records. Questions were also raised over the status of Karnataka voters if the 2002 electoral rolls are used as a reference, given that constituency boundaries were redrawn following delimitation in 2008. Representatives asked whether the claims period could be extended and whether exemptions could be granted for nomadic tribal communities that may face difficulties in producing documents. Sources said political parties were informed that another meeting would be held to address the concerns and grievances. The Congress had earlier written to the Election Commission on May 16 seeking a one-year extension for the exercise. TNN

Govt set to mark 3 years in office at T'kuru today

Bengaluru: Congress govt will hold its Pragatiyatta Karnataka programme in Tumakuru Tuesday to showcase its achievements after completing three years in office, amid chatter over a change of chief minister.

CM Siddaramaiah, his deputy DK Shivakumar and other senior ministers are expected to participate in the convention, which will also include distribution of benefit letters to over 1.5 lakh people.

Home minister **G Parameshwara,** who reviewed preparations for the event, said the programme would focus on beneficiary outreach and 1.5 lakh beneficiaries will receive letters as part of the programme. "We also have to inform people about what we have done in these three years. The people of the state have the right to know it," he said.

About the absence of Congress' central functionaries, Parameshwara said the event is a govt function and not a party programme. "We have not invited anyone from the high command," he said.

The minister said the administration had largely completed its short-term commitments and would now shift focus towards long-term infrastructure and irrigation projects.

Opposition leader R Ashoka, however, alleged that the convention was being organised at a huge public expense. "Congress has no moral right to hold this event while farmers in the state are committing suicide due to crop losses," he said. TNN

Brass may have discussed CM issue: Rajanna

Senior Congress MLA KN Rajanna Monday hinted at a possible CM change in Karnataka, claiming discussions may have taken place in Thiruvananthapuram where Congress high command and Karnataka leaders had gathered for the swearing-in ceremony of new Kerala chief minister VD Satheeshan.

Rajanna also backed home minister G Parameshwara for the chief minister's post if incumbent Siddaramaiah is replaced. "We are among those who want Parameshwara to be made the CM if Siddaramaiah is replaced. He served as the party's state president for eight years. Had he won the 2013 Assembly election, he would have become CM then," he said. TNN

At 94, Deve Gowda defies age and ailments to stay at heart of politics

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: Former prime minister HD Deve Gowda may undergo dialysis three times a week, move in a wheelchair, face recurring health complications and require constant medical monitoring. But at 94, he continues to maintain a public schedule that surprises even his close associates.

From travelling frequently between Bengaluru and Delhi to attending Parliament sessions, alliance meetings and public rallies, the JD(S) patriarch remains deeply involved in politics. At a time when most leaders of his generation have retired from active politics, Gowda's memory remains sharp.

On his birthday Monday, prominent politicians across party lines, including PM Narendra Modi and Union home minister Amit Shah, recalled not only his long political journey but also his persistence in public life. Associates say his determination often worries his family members and doctors. They note that his health is considered more stable than that of 83-year-old BJP veteran BS Yediyurappa, who also remains politically active. "Even after medical procedures, he wants updates on Parliament, party affairs and developments in Karnataka," a senior JD(S) functionary said.

TOI

LASTING BOND: Deve Gowda with his son and Union minister HD Kumaraswamy on the former PM's birthday Monday

> I have a firm resolve to fight for people's cause for as many more days as possible. I have been fighting throughout my 68 years of political life. I'm not worried about how much people recognise it, but I will do my job. Since I have a good relationship with Modi and Shah, I have confidence that there won't be issues (in the alliance)
> **HD Deve Gowda** | JD(S) PATRIARCH AND FORMER PRIME MINISTER

Born on May 18, 1933, at Haradanahalli village of Hassan district, Gowda comes from an agricultural family. He worked as a civil contractor before entering politics through cooperative institutions and becoming an MLA in 1962. Over the decades, he emerged as one of Karnataka's most influential satraps, building a strong base among rural communities, especially in the Old Mysuru region. His political identity remained tied to irrigation projects, agrarian concerns and grassroots mobilisation.

Political analyst Vishwas Shetty said Gowda's rise reflected the strength of regional leadership during the coalition era. "He is not a leader manufactured by Delhi politics," Shetty said. "He rose through district-level politics, direct public contact and organisational work."

Gowda became Karnataka CM in 1994, and PM in 1996 after a fractured mandate led to the formation of the United Front govt. Though his tenure lasted less than a year, observers say he played a key role in shaping coalition politics. Many from the Janata Parivar also credit him for backing the women's reservation bill long before it gained prominence recently.

However, controversies involving his grandsons Prajwal Revanna and Suraj Revanna have dented the image of the Gowda family and JD(S).

Prajwal faced sexual abuse allegations ahead of the 2024 Lok Sabha polls, while Suraj was also embroiled in a separate controversy, putting the regional party under increasing political pressure. Despite the setbacks, Gowda managed to join the NDA alliance and ensured a Union cabinet berth for his son HD Kumaraswamy.

Cong workers trade blows over appointments

Bengaluru: Factional tensions within Youth Congress led to a physical clash at the KPCC office in Bengaluru after state Youth Congress president HS Manjunath allegedly kept in abeyance the appointments of his rival Deepika Reddy and 14 other office-bearers. Sources said the clash broke out during an internal discussion on a proposed protest against NEET paper leak, scheduled for May 21. The altercation reportedly took place in the presence of Indian Youth Congress general secretary and Karnataka in-charge Nigam Bhandari.

Videos of the scuffle, recorded on mobile phones, went viral on social media. Reddy had contested against Manjunath in the Youth Congress elections and lost after some votes cast in her name were allegedly declared invalid.

The incident is being viewed within party circles as part of an ongoing tussle between camps aligned with chief minister Siddaramaiah and DCM DK Shivakumar. Manjunath is considered close to Shivakumar, while Reddy is believed to have had the backing of Siddaramaiah's camp.

Reddy alleged that the confrontation stemmed from Manjunath's "high-handedness", a charge he denied. Manjunath described the incident as a small disagreement and said the matter would be resolved by Shivakumar. TNN

200/200: CET retest for Hiriyur centre students

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: Following the controversy surrounding unusually high scores in the practical exam conducted for admissions under agriculturist quota in Common Entrance Test (CET), govt has decided to order a re-exam for students who appeared for the test at Hiriyur centre in Chitradurga.

AGRICULTURIST QUOTA

The controversy erupted over practical agriculture exam, which is one of the qualifying tests for agriculturist quota in farm science programmes, veterinary science, and animal husbandry of CET. As per allegations, 74 students from a centre received full marks in the exam — 200 out of 200 — raising suspicions of malpractice. Students of other centres did not do as well.

As a protest erupted, a fact-finding committee of Keladi Shivappa Nayaka University of Agricultural and Horticultural Sciences, Shivamogga, submitted its inquiry report to govt Monday. As per the report, there was no foul play, but students would have done well because all the questions were region-based, which they might have been familiar with.

The committee visited the Hiriyur centre and conducted an inquiry from 9am to 6pm, examining CCTV footage and specimen selection procedures, and interacting with officials involved in the exam.

Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA) said it is not responsible for holding the exam. "Agriculture universities have conducted the practical exams. We prepare the agriculture practical rank based on the practical marks awarded by the respective universities. We have nothing to do with the marks awarded in Hiriyur," said H Prasanna, executive director of KEA.

El Niño impact: Foodgrain output may drop by 30%

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: Karnataka is likely to witness a sharp decline in agricultural output this year due to possible poor monsoon linked to emerging El Niño conditions and disruptions in global fertiliser production caused by the ongoing West Asia war. Agriculture minister **N Cheluvarayaswamy** Monday warned that the combined impact could reduce the state's foodgrain production by 25-30%, potentially worsening food inflation in the coming months.

Referring to forecasts issued by India Meteorological Department and Karnataka State Natural Disaster Monitoring Centre, the minister said the state may experience active southwest monsoon conditions only during June and July instead of the usual four-month rainy season.

"We do not know how much it will rain in these two months. Nevertheless, govt has made elaborate plans to address the scenario with alternative contingency plans," he said on the sidelines of an interaction organised by Press Club of Bengaluru.

Cheluvarayaswamy said Karnataka is already facing shortages of key fertilisers due to disruptions in international supply chains. "Karnataka has a shortage of 38,000 tonnes of DAP and another 14,000 tonnes of urea. Against our demand for 4 lakh tonnes of fertilisers, the Centre supplied only 2.5 lakh tonnes in April. In May, against a demand of 4.5 lakh tonnes, only 1.8 lakh tonnes have been supplied," the minister said.

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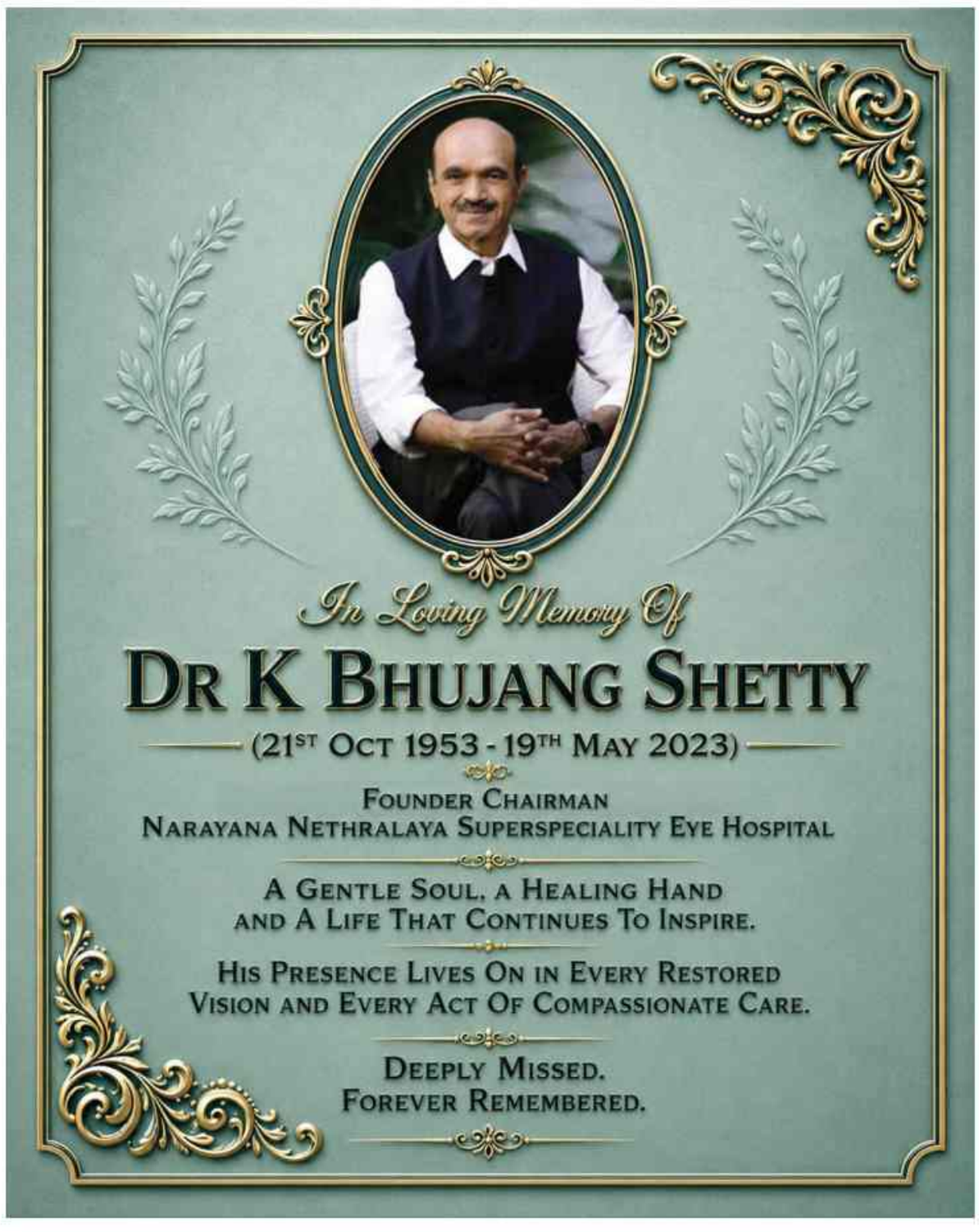
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(21ST OCT 1953 - 19TH MAY 2023)
FOUNDER CHAIRMAN
NARAYANA NETHRALAYA SUPERSPECIALITY EYE HOSPITAL
A GENTLE SOUL, A HEALING HAND
AND A LIFE THAT CONTINUES TO INSPIRE.
HIS PRESENCE LIVES ON IN EVERY RESTORED
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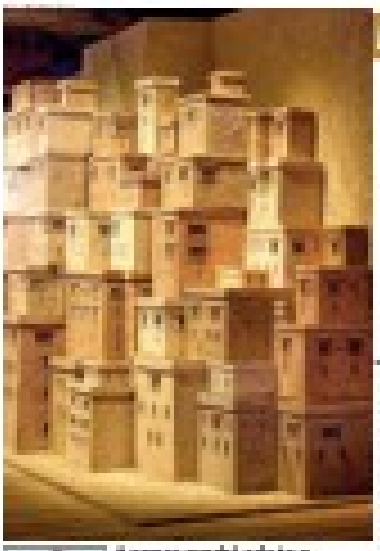
MEMORY & MIGRATION:

Indian artists reflect on home at Venice Biennale



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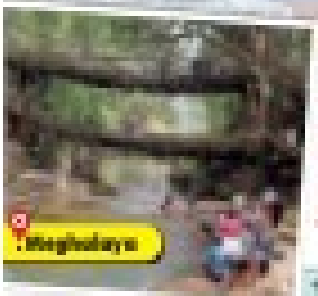
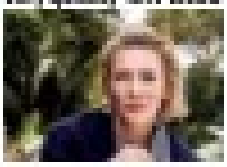
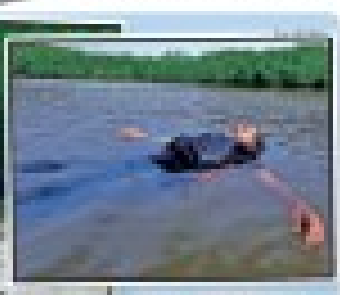


International destinations - Indian adventures

UP TO DATE | WHAT'S #TRENDING AND WHY





TIMES NATION

THE TIMES OF INDIA, BENGALURU | TUESDAY, MAY 19, 2026

DELHI HC GRANTS INTERIM BAIL TILL JUNE 2 TO ENGINEER RASHID FOLLOWING FATHER'S DEATH

NANA PATEKAR URGES DISTRESSED FARMERS BATTLING SUICIDAL THOUGHTS TO SEEK HELP

HACK OF THE DAY — **FACT-CHECK VIRAL CLAIMS BEFORE FORWARDING**

WHAT IT SOLVES: Helps you check whether a viral WhatsApp claim, health warning, political quote, or shocking image has already been reviewed by fact-checkers

WHAT TO DO: Use Google Fact Check Explorer before forwarding claims that sound urgent, emotional, or too convenient

STEPS:

1. **Visit** https://toolbox.google.com/factcheck/explorer
2. **Paste** the key claim, person name, image description, or phrase from the forward
3. **Search** for existing fact-checks from recognised fact-checking organisations
4. **Read** the rating, explanation, and original context
5. **Forward** only if the claim still looks reliable after checking

NOTE: This is very useful for election claims, health rumours, celebrity deaths, communal rumours, and fake government notices

SCAN FOR MORE

Hacks are based on verified public sources. Readers are advised to follow official websites & updated rules

FIR filed against 2 Punjab cops for making dead man 'give statement'

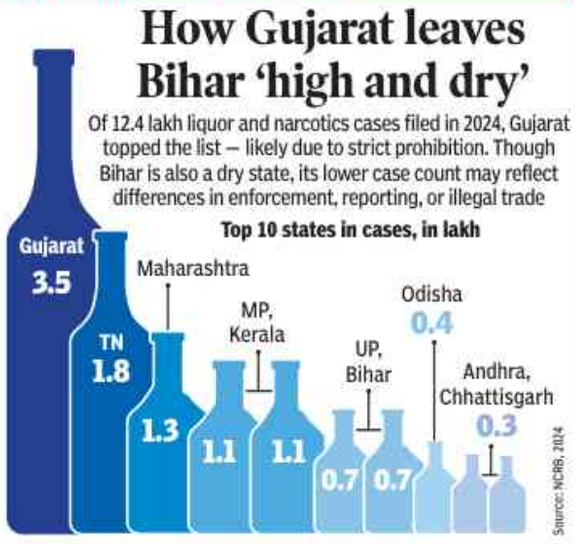
Police have filed an FIR against two cops for allegedly submitting the 'statement' of a dead man in connection with the murder of a US-based woman in Ludhiana, reports **Payal Dhawan**. Former Dehlon SHO Sukhjinder Singh and head constable Sanjiv Kumar were charged with evidence tampering, distorting official records and fabricating documents. Rupinder Kaur (72), was murdered in July 2025. Police arrested the house owner, Sukhjit Singh, while his brother Manvir is missing. Police said Sukhjit confessed that he murdered Rupinder at the behest of UK-based NRI, who was accused of duping the NRI woman. Manvir moved HC seeking anticipatory bail and alleged that a witness statement in the police file had been fabricated. As per the plea, Gurpreet Singh, whose 'statement' was recorded as a witness on Sept 19, 2025, had died on May 29, 2025.

STATOISTICS A slice of life in numbers

How Gujarat leaves Bihar 'high and dry'

Of 12.4 lakh liquor and narcotics cases filed in 2024, Gujarat topped the list — likely due to strict prohibition. Though Bihar is also a dry state, its lower case count may reflect differences in enforcement, reporting, or illegal trade

Top 10 states in cases, in lakh



Illegals detected and deleted, will now be deported: Suvendu

But Gives No Timeline To Drive Out 'Infiltrators'

RohitKhanna@timesofindia.com

Kolkata: Making his intent clear to drive out alleged illegal immigrants from West Bengal, chief minister Suvendu Adhikari Monday said "detection and deletion" from the electoral rolls had already been done, and "deportation" would begin soon. He also said that the state govt had initiated the process for the Census exercise, which he alleged was delayed by the Trinamool govt.

"First we detected (illegal residents) in the voters' list, then we deleted (them) from the list, and now the time has come for (their) deportation," Adhikari said at a gathering in Kolkata's Camac Street. However, he did not mention any timeline.

Referring to the violence over the state govt's drive against illegal construction in Kolkata's Tiljala area, Adhikari said: "You have seen the action in Tiljala. They have moved the court and they are free to do that. There is no building plan with them and we will not allow such things any more. They will have to pay the price for what they have done in Park Circus. They vandalised a police phari in Asansol. There will be 200% consequences."

Adhikari also said there had been a perceptible change in Bengal in the past few days. "Sikhs are exempted from wearing helmets. Rest of the population has to wear helmets. Loudspeakers should remain confined to religious premises. A lot of work will be done soon," he said.

Earlier in the day, the CM held his first public grievance outreach programme — 'Janatar Darbar' — at the Salt Lake BJP office. The programme, scheduled to be held every Monday, will be conducted both at party headquarters and at administrative level.

"We have started this programme from the party office. This is a programme where people will speak to us directly," said Adhikari, who was accompanied by BJP state general secretaries Locket Chatterjee and Shashi Agnihotri.

Suvendu Adhikari meets injured CRPF personnel in Kolkata on Monday

Yogi: If there's space crunch, offer namaz in shifts, but not on roads

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Lucknow: UP CM **Yogi Adityanath** on Monday defended his govt's ban on offering namaz on roads, saying prayers should be held at designated places of worship and offered "in shifts" if there is a space crunch, rather than by blocking public spaces.

Speaking at an event organised by a news daily in Lucknow, Yogi said roads were meant for commuters, patients and working citizens, not religious gatherings, and asserted that the "rule of law will prevail equally for everyone".

He stressed that govt must ensure free movement at all times in a democracy governed by rules and regulations.

"People ask whether roadside prayers have stopped in UP. I tell them to come and see for themselves. It simply does not happen anymore," he said.

"We are not stopping anyone from offering prayers, but roads cannot be occupied for it."

Targeting previous govts in UP, Yogi accused them of fostering lawlessness, caste politics and appeasement, and alleged that exam-copying mafias and criminal syndicates flourished under their patronage, creating an "identity crisis" for the state.

"Today's Uttar Pradesh is free from riots and curfews," Yogi said, crediting decisive governance and law-and-order reforms for the state's transformation and economic growth.

Recalling the Emergency in 1975, Yogi Adityanath praised journalists who, he said, sacrificed to protect democracy. He also warned about fake news and deepfakes, urging media organisations to report more sensitively and avoid sensationalism to prevent law-and-order crises.

Not govt's job to give out doles to imams, purohits, says Bengal CM

Debashis Konar, Rohit Khanna & Tamaghna Banerjee | TNN

Kolkata: Bengal's BJP govt moved Monday to stamp out religion-based aid such as honorariums for mosque functionaries and priests, with CM Suvendu Adhikari asserting that "it was not the govt's job to distribute doles to imams, muezzins and purohits".

"Financial assistance to imams, muezzins and purohits is being discontinued. A fresh notification will be issued listing the schemes that are being discontinued," Urban development and women and child affairs minister Agnimitra Paul said after a cabinet meeting where the decision was taken. The payments will be stopped from next month.

Such stipends had been introduced by Mamata Banerjee-led TMC govt. They were being provided through the information and cultural affairs department, and minority affairs and madrassa education department.

Adhikari doubled down on the decision to halt the payments. "Our job is to improve education, to give jobs to youths. We have stopped every religious dole. We will provide Vivekananda scholarship to meritorious and poor students from all communities. There will not be any appeasement politics in Bengal," he said.

BJP welcomed the move. "The Constitution does not allow discrimination among communities based on religion. Govt will work for the people of Bengal. It will neither favour Hindus nor Muslims," BJP state president Samik Bhattacharya said.

Modern Bread ups price by ₹5 a pack, others to follow suit

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POCKET PINCH

Mumbai: After milk became costlier by Rs 2 per litre on May 14, bread prices have now risen by five rupees per pack. Input costs of imported raw material used for plastic packaging and transportation are contributory factors. The rupee in free fall is adding to import woes.

On May 16, Modern Bread increased rates by a full five rupees per pack on basic variants, a record high. Britannia and Wibs are expected to follow suit. Grupo Bimbo, which owns the Modern brand, did not respond to **TOI**'s requests for comment.

Raju Phutane, who owns a milk-bread stall in Lane 3 of Lokhandwala Complex, Andheri, said, "The price of Modern's 400 gm sandwich loaf has risen from Rs 40 to Rs 45, whole wheat from Rs 55 to Rs 60, and multigrain from Rs 60 to Rs 65. The small brown loaf was Rs 28, and it is now Rs 30. The white loaf was Rs 20; it is now Rs 22." Brown bread has reportedly risen from Rs 45 to Rs 50.

Suresh Paswan, manager of Breadkraft Bakery nearby, said, "Plastic powder used for manufacturing plastic bags is imported and has become very costly. We are considering raising bread prices. It is inevitable."

Salahuddin Khan, director of Kwality Bakers and member of the India Bakers' Association, said, "Transportation cost is a big drain on resources. Plus preservatives – even salt – are much costlier. Plastic carry bags, a petroleum product, have increased to ridiculous levels."

Shafi Ansari, a consumer, said, "Earlier rates would rise by Rs 2 per loaf — Rs 3 was cause for anxiety. Now, the hikes are in multiples of five rupees at one go."

After plaints, Vijay orders revamp of Amma canteens

Omjasvin.MD
@timesofindia.com

Chennai: Tamil Nadu CM **C Joseph Vijay** has ordered revamp and renovation of Amma Unavagams across the state following complaints over the quality and taste of food served at the subsidised eateries.

Currently, 383 Amma Unavagams are functioning under the Greater Chennai Corporation, while 237 others are being operated by municipal corporations and municipalities across the state.

According to an official release, Vijay reviewed the issue with senior govt officials after concerns were raised regarding the standard of food being served in recent months. He directed officials to upgrade infrastructure facilities at the canteens, immediately procure necessary cooking equipment and ensure uninterrupted supply of hygienic and tasty food to the public.

3-hour flash strike by AI ground staff

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: Thousands of passengers booked on Air India, Air India Express and some foreign airlines on their Mumbai flights scheduled between 10am and 1pm on Monday had a harrowing time after employees of AI Airport Services Ltd (AIASL), a ground handling company, staged an impromptu demonstration demanding better employment terms. A total 31 departures were delayed, 5 arrival flights saw delayed parking, and baggage delivery for 6 international and 33 domestic flights was delayed, sources said.

Apart from Air India group, AIASL does ground handling for 37 foreign carriers, according to information posted on its website.

Passengers on at least one Delhi-Mumbai flight were made to remain seated inside aircraft for two hours after landing as ground staff were unavailable, sources said. Several flights including those to Delhi, Chandigarh, Udaipur, Kolkata and Bhuj were delayed.

Partnership of India's talent and Norway's tech, says PM

▶Continued from page 1

As India and Norway, which shares border with Russia, discussed the situation in Ukraine and also West Asia, Modi said both countries believe in a rules-based order, dialogue and diplomacy, and remain in agreement that no issue can be resolved through military conflict.

"Whether it is Ukraine or West Asia, we support and will continue to support, every effort toward an early end to the conflicts and the restoration of peace," said Modi.

Stoere earlier said it is important for both countries to stand up against those who weaponise diplomacy trade and technology. "At a time of rising protectionism and more tense geopolitical dynamics, it's more important than ever to stand together for a rule-based order," he said.

According to Modi, both sides agreed reform of global institutions is essential to address the growing global challenges and that eliminating terrorism in all its forms and manifestations is a shared commitment. "The leaders unequivocally condemned terrorism, including cross-border terrorism, and urged concerted global action to deal with the menace," said an Indian readout.

"Through this strategic partnership, our companies will develop global solutions across sectors — from clean energy to climate resilience, and from the blue economy to green shipping — by combining India's scale, speed, and talent with Norway's technology and capital," the PM said.

IANS/PMO

PM Narendra Modi is welcomed by the Indian community in Oslo, Norway, on Monday

Norway gives highest civilian honour to Modi

New Delhi: Norway conferred its highest honour, Grand Cross of the Royal Norwegian Order of Merit, on PM Narendra Modi on Monday, a day after Sweden bestowed its top recognition on him, marking his 32nd global award.

Modi said, "This honour is dedicated to the people of India and is a tribute to the enduring friendship between India and Norway. It reflects our shared commitment to global progress".

Lauding the international honours for Modi BJP praised him as India's most popular Prime Minister who continuously figured among the most popular world leaders and said it underlines the high place India has come to occupy on his watch.

"It is a matter of pride for every Indian," BJP spokesperson Sudhanshu Trivedi told reporters. TNN

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Timings	Sessions	Speakers
10:30 AM - 11:00 AM	Inauguration & Keynote	
11:00 AM-12:00 PM	How industry-ready is engineering education in Karnataka?	Moderator: **Prof. S Sadagopan** Former Director, IIITB Panelists: **Dr. KN Subramanya** Principal, RV College of Engineering; **Dr. Udayakumar Reddy** Dean of the School of Engineering, Dayanand Sagar University; **Dr. Kiran Kumari Patil** Director Innovations & Deputy Director of CMR School of Engineering and Technology
12:00 PM-1:00 PM	CET Counselling: A detailed walkthrough	**Mr. Manjunatha R** Joint Controller of Examinations and PRO, KEA
LUNCH BREAK		
1:30 PM-2:00 PM	NEET Counselling: A guide on State Quota Seats	**Mr. Manjunatha R** Joint Controller of Examinations and PRO, KEA
2:00 PM 3:00 PM	Smart Degree Choices: How to match your degree with the current industry demand	Panelists: **Mr. Harold Fernandes** Product Leader, BITS Pilani Digital; **Mr. Nisshanth Kumar M** Professor, Chanakya University; **Dr. A.V. Arunkumar** Professor and Director, IFIM Institutions; **Dr. Dinesh Nilkant** Provost, Presidency University; **Dr. Harold Andrew Patrick** Professor and Director, Alliance Ascent College

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THE TIMES OF INDIA CHANGE Begins Here

Woman dies 18 months after wedding, kin allege murder

Advitya.Bahl
@timesofindia.com

Noida: Eighteen months after her marriage, a 24-year-old woman died at her in-laws' place in Greater Noida on Sunday, purportedly from a fall from the third-floor terrace that was reported to the police as suicide, but her family claims is murder.

Deepika Nagar, her father Sanjay told police, was harassed and taunted relentlessly by in-laws over "unmet" dowry demands. Sanjay accused Deepika's husband Ritik Nagar, a real estate broker who is studying LLB, and his family of murdering her and pushing her from the roof of their house in Jalpura to make the death look like suicide.

Soon after an FIR was filed at Ecotech 3 police station on Monday morning, Ritik and his father were arrested. Seven others in Ritik's family, including his mother, are absconding, police said.

According to Sanjay, Deepika was mistreated ever since the Dec 11, 2024 wedding and found regular humiliation instead of happiness in her marital life. He told police that hours before her death, around 12pm on Sunday, she called him in tears, saying her in-laws were assaulting her over dowry. Deepika's family members reached her matrimonial home around 7pm to calm things down. Hours after they returned, they were told she had fallen off the roof and was being taken to a hospital. Deepika was declared dead at 12.30pm.

Sanjay claimed while the marriage was solemnised with gifts, including a Scorpio car, Rs 12 lakh in cash and gold jewellery during various rituals, Ritik and his family demanded an additional Toyota Fortuner and Rs 51 lakh in cash and would continuously pressure her.

Police filed an FIR under sections of BNS and Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961, against Ritik, his father Manoj, mother Poonam, sisters Neha and Tanni, and relatives Pramod and Vinod.

₹5L accident insurance for cab passengers must in Haryana

Gurgaon: Haryana govt has tightened the rules for cab aggregators, making it compulsory for them to provide passengers an insurance cover of at least Rs 5 lakh — a significant financial safeguard in case of an accident or any untoward incident such as robbery during a ride, **reports Bagish Jha**.

The decision was taken on Monday at a cabinet meeting on a wider overhaul of aggregator licence rules in the state. The policy also mandated a minimum health insurance cover of Rs 5 lakh and term insurance of Rs 10 lakh for onboarded drivers. The same insurance protection will apply to delivery partners as well.

WORLD IBD DAY

19th May 2024

The Importance of a Colonoscopy

Dr Ashwin K.S.

There is often a fear of "pain" underneath colonoscopy in India. However, this is the "gold standard" to actually see the inflammation inside your colon.

Tips: Booking your colonoscopy date under mild sedation and anesthesia is often only one to one & half's, accurate diagnosis and start the right treatment.

Conclusion: Don't be lost in a colonoscopy your preferred option for life.

Don't Stop Meds in Remission

Dr. Kumar Senthil G.R

When symptoms vanish, many patients stop their pills, thinking they're "cured." This often leads to relapses known as "rebound" flare-ups.

Tips: Think of IBD medications like a lifeline – you wouldn't let a parachute you've been you've had an accident. Maintenance therapy prevents future damage.

Conclusion: Continuous medication is the secret to staying symptom-free for years on end.

Warm vs. Cold Foods

Dr.K.R.Arun

Ever a classical debate how cold foods worsen and a friends says warm the wounds but most of the patients wanted to "ignore" whatever was in their stomach to avoid stomach pain.

Tips: Ask for recommendations of a nutritionist instead of undiagnosed what "feels" warm after with a glass of the pineapple for "better gut" Lower inflammation and gut pain from the first week.

Conclusion: Compromise matters, keeping your diet rich in fruits and vegetables and avoiding triggers like spicy foods and caffeine can help you manage symptoms effectively.

The Link Between IBS-C and Vitamin D

Dr. Manjunath C.N

Recent studies suggest a strong link between vitamin D deficiency and increased IBS symptoms. In this study, we aim to explore how vitamin D supplementation can help alleviate the pain, bloating, and irregular bowel habits commonly experienced by IBS patients.

Tips: Out of sunlight, vitamin D supplements can help improve symptoms in IBS-C patients. Consider adding vitamin D supplements to your treatment plan and consult with your healthcare provider to determine the appropriate dosage for you.

Conclusion: Overcoming a complex vitamin deficiency could be the "hidden key" to improving your overall gut comfort and ease in daily life.

The "Mindful Eating" Method

Dr. Abhishek K.

In our fast-paced life, we often eat while watching TV or using phones. This leads to poor chewing and gut conditioning, which causes bloating.

Tips: Sit down for meals and chew every bite 20-30 times. This mechanical breakdown of food is the crucial to reduce the gut-centric IBS symptoms.

Conclusion: How you eat is just as important as what you eat. Practice mindfulness at every meal!

Sunlight and Vitamin D

Dr. C.R. Ramakrishna

A large percentage of Indians IBS patients are deficient in Vitamin D. This increases a susceptibility to gut inflammation. Even a small dose of sunlight can help reduce symptoms like bloating and diarrhea.

Tips: Spend 15 minutes in the morning sun or add more sources for a vitamin D supplement. Low levels are often linked to more frequent IBS flares.

Conclusion: A little sunshine can go a long way in managing your chronic inflammation.

Watching for Blood

Dr. Ravi Kumar Gubbi

Seeing blood in stools is often mistaken for piles. Doctors believe in "Before Assumption, While you see, Colonoscopy". Think it's a simple condition? Don't Assume Colitis.

Tips: Check if the blood is mixed with stool or is on its own. Also, note the color – bright red blood can come from hemorrhoids, while dark blood may indicate a more serious issue higher up in the digestive tract.

Conclusion: Never ignore rectal bleeding or "pass piles". A quick visit to a doctor can save you time and worry later.

Avoiding Hidden Triggers

Dr. Manoj Varma

Many Indians don't know that a simple spice can trigger a sudden IBS flare-up.

Tips: Always read labels for "hidden ingredients" in packaged foods. Switching to fresh, home-cooked meals can also help you control what goes into your body.

Conclusion: The more you know, the better you can manage your symptoms. Be a detective in the kitchen!

IBD is Not Just an "Allergy"

Dr. Sreekanth K.N.

Many Indians mistakenly attribute their IBS to a simple food allergy. In reality, it is an autoimmune condition where your body's immune system mistakenly attacks your own gut.

Tips: Don't waste time on "allergy tests" that promise a cure for IBS. Instead, focus on working with a gastroenterologist who can accurately diagnose your condition and create a personalized treatment plan.

Conclusion: Understanding that IBD is an internal immune issue is the first step to taking the right steps towards recovery.

The Role of Steamed Foods

Dr. Priyanka Verma

In my clinical practice, I often see patients struggle with raw salads. For those with IBD, even a healthy diet can cause pain if it's not well-cooked and easy.

Tips: Switch to steaming your vegetables like carrots, beans, and zucchini, and remember, boiling them is the simplest method.

Conclusion: Soft, cooked food is not the "traditional" or even healthiest, allowing your gut to heal.

The Truth About "Heat" in Foods

Dr. Suvarna Mahadik

In Indian traditional thought, some foods are considered "Garam" (hot). While interesting, IBD inflammation is a complex process, not just "body heat."

Tips: Instead of avoiding "hot" foods blindly, keep a food diary to see what actually triggers your bowel. Science-based triggers may differ from personal opinions.

Conclusion: Don't just rely on your personal experiences and dietary advice rather than gastroenterologist.

The Risk of "Home Remedies"

Dr. Sahana Subramanya

Asking advice from neighbors is not the same as seeking a diagnosis. The gut is very delicate. There can be very foods on an already inflamed intestinal wall.

Tips: Before trying any "Miracle Powder" or detox, remember, and your specialist. What works for a cousin may be a nightmare for your IBD flare.

Conclusion: Your gut is sensitive, treat it with the professional care it deserves, not guesswork.

Meal Timing Matters

Dr. Prajwal Rao

Most busy Indians, a no-nonsense daytime. Struggles eating light, a through the "empty-stomach" complex. The stomach can't move food to the gut.

Tips: Eat your largest meal at lunch when digestion is strongest and have dinner light and early, ideally before 8 PM.

Conclusion: Regularity can check in to improve how we experience your stress, consistency for the "inner gut peace" and performance.

Anemia and Iron Deficiency

Dr. Anil Bharti

Chronic blood loss in IBD can contribute to chronic, often leading to severe fatigue and anemia. Addressing nutritional deficiencies is a key part of managing your overall health.

Tips: Focus on iron-rich foods like spinach, red meat, and lentils. Pair them with vitamin C sources to help your body absorb them better.

Conclusion: Treating anemia is a crucial part of feeling "normal" again while living with IBD.

Herbal Teas vs. Traditional Chai

Dr. Sujith Kumar

While a cup of "Kadak Chai" is an Indian staple, the tannins and caffeine can sometimes irritate the lining. Switching to herbal options can be a kind, soothing way to give your gut a break.

Tips: Try replacing your evening tea with Ginger or Chamomile. Be mindful of sugar too.

Conclusion: Swapping one daily habit for a gut-friendly alternative can significantly lower your daily discomfort and improve your overall well-being.

Mouth Ulcers and Your Gut

Dr. Shivakumar Reddy

Many Indians suffer from frequent mouth ulcers and never think twice. Small, painful sores can be an early "traffic warning" from the gut, not just "bad luck."

Tips: If you're constantly dealing with recurring mouth ulcers, don't ignore them. Keeping a food diary can help you identify if certain foods are the culprit.

Conclusion: Your mouth often mirrors what's happening in your digestive tract.

The Impact of Sedentary Lifestyles

Dr. Vishwanath K.

Sedentary habits, long hours of desk bound jobs as a major risk factor for symptoms. While genetics and diet play a role, lack of physical activity can worsen gut inflammation and slow digestion, increasing IBS-C.

Tips: Set a timer to stand every hour and perform gentle spine stretch. Even small movements help encourage the natural rhythm of the digestive system.

Conclusion: Physical activity is not required as only gut, your answer is the natural tool for a healthy digestive rhythm.

Understanding the Squat Position

Dr. Vinay S.

Whether you're a first time gym goer, working on complex difficult for IBD-C patients. This movement is designed to stimulate the colon and improve bowel movements.

Tips: Use a small footstool or elevate your heels while sitting on a Western commode. This mimics the squatting position and straightens the path for easier passage.

Conclusion: A simple change in posture can significantly reduce straining and promote more natural, comfortable bowel movements.

Can IBD Turn into Cancer?

Dr. Ramesh Kumar Gubbi

A common fear is that chronic inflammation can become cancer. While there is a slightly higher risk after 8–10 years of disease, it is highly preventable.

Tips: The best way to prevent cancer is to stay in "deep remission" and have regular screenings. Consistent medication is your strongest defense against cancer, so never stop it on your own.

Conclusion: If you control the inflammation, you effectively control the long-term risks. Knowledge is your best protection.

Your Travel Medicine Kit

Dr. Ramesh K. Gubbi

When away from your local doctor, a well-stocked medical kit is your best friend. Never leave home without your regular IBD maintenance drugs.

Tips: Carry your medicines in your hand luggage, not in checked bags. Include ORS packets and also be aware of anti-diarrheals for emergencies.

Conclusion: Being prepared medically gives you the confidence to explore new places and enjoy the World.

"Disclaimer: Content is for educational purposes only. Consult your doctor before making any changes to your treatment plan."

INDIA DIGEST

Rajesh Mehta

A proposed model of the indigenously designed high-speed train has been displayed at Rail Bhawan. The first such train will be operational on the Ahmedabad-Mumbai High Speed Rail corridor next August. The indigenous trains with design speed of 280 kmph are being manufactured by Central PSU, Bharat Earth Movers Ltd

Mann seeks tough anti-sacrilege laws

Punjab CM **Bhagwant Mann** Monday said Punjab had shown the country the path to protecting the honour of the Gurus by enacting the strictest law against sacrilege (beadbi), and appealed to all state govts to bring similar tough laws. After paying obeisance at Takht Sri Harimandir Ji, Patna Sahib, Mann said anyone daring to commit beadbi of Sri Guru Granth Sahib in Punjab would now have to spend their entire life in jail.

Last Odisha Maoists may have fled: Police

The last surviving Maoist foot soldiers, limited to eight or nine, who had reportedly taken refuge in Odisha's Kandhamal forests after the state was declared Naxal-free on March 31, are now suspected to have fled to Kerala in search of jobs, police sources said. "We have shared their details and photographs with Kerala Police and alerted railway police," a cop said. Police said anti-Maoist deployments will continue for at least two more years to prevent any resurgence.

Allahabad University suspends hostellers

Allahabad University has lodged an FIR against 14 students, including 12 hostellers, over repeated incidents of crude bomb hurling, stone pelting and clashes inside PCB and Sir Sunder Lal hostels. The university Monday suspended the 12 hostellers pending a probe. Chief proctor Atul Singh accused students of creating trouble and forcing juniors to participate in violent activities.

1.1 crore craft workers earn below min wage

Get Around ₹270 A Day, Says Study

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

The survey found that half of the handloom units in TN (66%), UP (51%), Assam (50%) and Bengal (48%) reported decline or stagnation in the scale of production in the past decade

New Delhi: Despite employing one in every four worker in manufacturing, the handicrafts and handloom (HH) sector is marred by low productivity, occupational hazards, lack of formalisation, market access including e-commerce and exports, the latest study by the Institute for Human Development (IHD) in collaboration with Crafts Council of India released on Monday showed.

The gross value added (GVA) per worker in the sector was estiamted at Rs 270 a day, lower than the minimum wage prescribed by govt, as the HH sector is estimated to employ nearly 1.1 crore people across 65 lakh establishments in the year 2024. "Since most of these establishments are run and operated by a single person, their value added can be taken as their earnings, which is a paltry amount," said GC Manna, professor at IHD.

The primary survey was conducted in five states of Assam, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, UP and Bengal based on HH units enumerated in the sixth economic census conducted by NSO in 2013. "The HH establishments of five states together contributed Rs 51,445 crore of annual GVA. In terms of annual GVA per worker, the average for five states was about Rs 84,000 (a year)... which falls well below the prescribed daily minimum wage," the study said.

It found that majority of establishments operated from within the household premises and merely 2.6% establishments across the country employed more than 5 workers, showing the "proprietary" nature of these units, meaning that a single person own and operate them with more women being proprietors than men. In Rajasthan, the share of women proprietors stood at 94%.

"A significant proportion of handloom establishments remain unregistered under any formal scheme or programme. Further, a very low proportion of HH establishments-maintained accounts. The overall proportion of formally trained artisans and weavers remain low," the official study noted.

The survey also found that half of the handloom units in Tamil Nadu (66%), UP (51%), Assam (50%) and West Bengal (48%) reported decline or stagnation in the scale of production in the past decade.

In Rajasthan, the share stood at 30%. Competition from mass production and copying, lack of skilled workers and space also emerged as major problems being faced by these establishments.

"Use of exhibitions and fairs has been found to be minimal, contrary to held belief. No use was reported of e-commerce or of contract with khadi authorities, export agencies or private companies," the study said. Less than 1% units reported sale of their products through organised fairs and exhibitions in Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal.

US pharma co denied patent on hepatitis C combo therapy

New Delhi: The Indian Patent Office has refused to grant a patent to US pharmaceutical firm AbbVie on its Hepatitis C combination therapy glecaprevir/pibrentasvir, marketed globally as Mavyret.

The combination therapy is considered a key treatment for Hepatitis C, and the availability of affordable generic versions remains critical for widening patient access. "The order demonstrates the importance of India's patent safeguards, including pre-grant opposition, in preventing unnecessary patent monopolies that can delay access to medicines," public health advocacy group Third World Network (TWN) said.

The decision is significant as the rejection prevents AbbVie from securing a secondary patent on the composition of glecaprevir/pibrentasvir, which, if approved, could have prolonged the company's market exclusivity by another five years, a TWN lawyer said.

The rejection was under Sec 15 of Patents Act. The order records that AbbVie did not file reply statements or evidence in response to the pre-grant oppositions, and later informed the patent office that it wished to abandon the application.

The decision's significance is amplified by AbbVie's licensing agreement with Medicines Patent Pool, under which India was excluded as a sales territory. —**Rupali Mukherjee**

Innovate at speed of relevance: IAF chief to defence agencies

Surendra.Singh
@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: With countries developing new defence systems at a faster pace amid ongoing conflicts, Indian Air Force chief Air Chief Marshal **A P Singh** has advised Indian defence agencies involved in R&D to "innovate at the speed of relevance".

"We need to increase the speed because the system has to come in before it becomes irrelevant. It is good to have 85-90% capability of the system on time than wait for that 100% and delay it beyond its relevance period," the IAF chief said at a seminar co-hosted by think-tank CAPSS and Indian Military Review publication.

ACM Singh said for any modern aerial threat, complete domain awareness is key and there should be "total coordination" among the three services. "We have seen what happens if you don't have domain awareness. We've seen what happened to F-15s in Kuwait. The fratricide part," he said. He highlighted importance of drones and unmanned aircraft systems. "They are no more eyes in the sky. They are claws in the sky now."

IAF gets 1st top rated woman flying instructor

New Delhi: In another example of women breaking the glass ceiling in the armed forces, Squadron Leader Saanya has become the first woman officer to achieve the top-category Qualified Flying Instructor position in the IAF.

In a post on X, IAF said, "Excellence takes flight. Squadron Leader **Saanya** achieved a historic first by becoming the first woman officer to earn the coveted Cat-A Qualified Flying Instructor qualification."

The IAF uses a structured system to rank instructional expertise of pilots. Cat-C is for trainee instructors, Cat-B for standard flying instructors and Cat-A is the pinnacle of the grading system, allowing pilots to train other instructors and assess advanced flying skills.

Commissioned in June 2015, Squadron Leader Saanya was promoted to the rank of Flight Lieutenant in 2017 and Squadron Leader in 2021. —**Surendra Singh**

India purchased nearly 2 million barrels a day from Russia in March: Reports

▶ Continued from page 1

The latest estimates do not include the under-recovery on jet fuel sales for domestic flights. Sujata Sharma, joint secretary in petroleum ministry, also said there was no proposal before Centre to bail out oil companies over the losses.

A few hours later, in a social media post, US treasury secretary Scott Bessent said a temporary 30-day general licence will be issued to provide the most vulnerable nations with the ability to temporarily access Russian oil currently stranded at sea.

"This extension will provide additional flexibility, and we will work with these nations to provide specific licences as needed. This general licence will help stabilise the physical crude market and ensure oil reaches the most energy-vulnerable countries," he said on X, adding that the waiver would also help reroute existing supplies to countries most in need by reducing China's ability to stockpile discounted oil.

The waiver was first issued in March to release sanctioned Russian oil stranded in tankers to ease crude supply shortages and mitigate price spikes amid military conflict in West Asia and disruption in Strait of Hormuz, through which nearly 20% of global energy supplies pass. It was extended in April. According to data firm Kpler, India purchased nearly 2 million barrels a day (mbd) from Russia in March and 1.6 mbd in April.

The Indian oil basket averaged $113.49 and $114.48 a barrel in March and April, respectively. So far in May, it has averaged $106.69 a barrel.

CBI suspects leaked questions distributed through select coaching networks

▶ Continued from page 1

Kulkarni, who worked as Marathi translator for National Testing Agency (NTA) and had access to questions, was arrested on May 15. Investigators are probing whether Kulkarni leaked papers in previous years.

More than 22 lakh students across India wrote NEET-UG on May 3. Exam was cancelled on May 12 following allegations of widespread malpractice and paper leak, triggering one of country's biggest entrance test probes in recent years.

CBI told a court in New Delhi that Motegaonkar received chemistry questions and answers on April 23, nearly 10 days before exam, and circulated handwritten copies to multiple candidates and intermediaries. Investigators alleged leaked questions were found in his mobile phone. "Motegaonkar appeared in a video at his coaching centre claiming questions he gave students later appeared in final exam paper," a CBI officer said. Agency suspects leaked questions were distributed through select coaching networks operating across Maharashtra. Searches at Motegaonkar's institute and residence led to confiscation of a chemistry question bank containing questions identical to those in NEET-UG held on May 3, officials said, adding laptops, mobile phones and documents seized from five locations are being analysed. CBI said Motegaonkar ran RCC coaching centres at nine locations, including Latur headquarters, training NEET aspirants. Investigators alleged students who paid lakhs of rupees attended "special coaching classes" where questions expected in exam were allegedly dictated and discussed beforehand.

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- Petitioners / Plaintiffs
-Versus-
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Dr. R. Babitha, F/44 D/o B. M. Ramalingam
R. AnithaKumari, F/39 D/o B. M. Ramalingam
All three residing at:D. No. 87, Kalidasa Road 3rd Block, Vondikoppal, V V Moalla, Mysore 570 002
Respondents / Defendants 3 To 5
NOTICE
The Hon'ble Court had on 17-04-2026 directed the Petitioner / Plaintiff to give Paper Publication with an intimation to above named Respondents / Defendants 3 to 5 to cause their appearance in the Court on 16-06-2026 at 10 am. Hence, the said Respondents are advised to attend in person or through Pleader on the said date and time. S. Shujath
Counsel for Petitioners / Plaintiffs

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I hitherto known as GANGADHAR BIDADHI RAJASHEKARAIAH alias GANGADHAR B R alias RAJASHEKARAIAH GANGADHAR BIDADHI S/o B H RAJASHEKARAIAH, residing at No 203 4th Cross, 5th Block, III Phase, Kathriguppe, Banashankari III Stage, Bengaluru, Karnataka-560085, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as THOMAS RAJASHEKAR. I have changed only my name and not my religion, vide affidavit dated 06/11/2025 before SENIOR SHERISTEDAR J.M.F.C. H V MANJUNATH.

I, Sindhu Nadig Hanumanahalli Dharmarajappa, W/O of Chandan Samanthri, residing at 448, Pyramid Mahika, Basaveshwara layout, Nehru Nagar, Shivanahalli, Yelahanka, Bengaluru 560064, have changed my name to Sindhu Nadig, affidavit dt 15/05/2026 sworn before Notary S R Ravikumar, Bengaluru.

I Nandagopal N S/O, Nandakumar P R/o Flat No. G-4, Sai Balaji Apartment, 33/1, Thyagraj Layout, (mayors Colony), Banaswadi Extn, Maruthi Sevanagar, Bengaluru, Karnataka - 560033 have changed my name to Priyanka Adviti D/o Nandakumar P.

ANIL S/o Ram Bharose R/o 408, elite abhyudha 1, celebrity layout, electronic city phase 1, doddthaguru bengaluru - 560100 have changed my name to Anil Kumar.

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K S Shiva Prakash who is the property owner for old no 119/ New No 74 rathna vilas road, rathna vilas apartment, basavanagudhi bangalore 560004, has lost all property documents on way to KR market bus on 18 may 2026 like mother deed, Registered Sale Deed / Title Deed, agreement copy if found please call 9986377250

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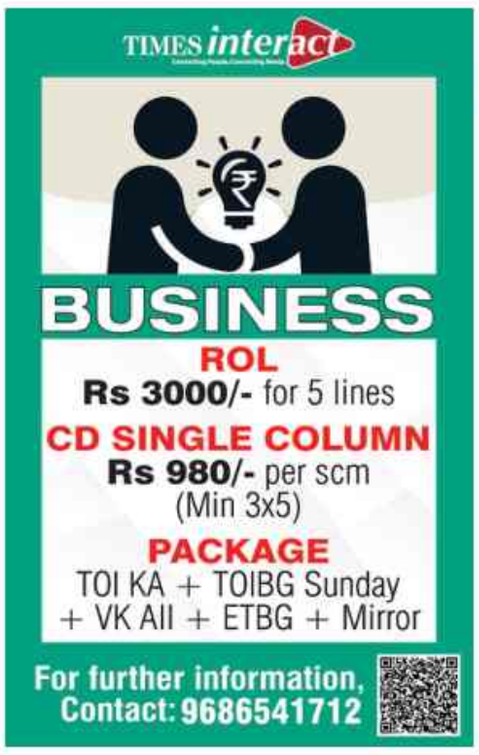


In India, the obsession with Cannes is only about walking the red carpet: Kashyap

THE CRACK

CANNES WATCH

Returning to the Cannes Film Festival, Anurag Kashyap shares sentiments he first shared with us in 2018: 'People don't understand that there is a festival beyond the red carpet.' Fourteen years later, little seems to have changed

MAY 15, 2018

Indian stars go to Cannes as brand ambassadors, not as cine artistes

2024

In India, the obsession with Cannes is only about walking the red carpet. People don't understand that there is a festival beyond it...and that the purpose extends far beyond the red carpet... We go there like idiots

2018

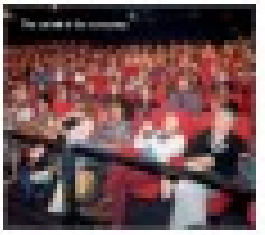
Whether Aishwarya Rai's comment on Cannes, or Aamir Khan's on walking the red carpet at the 2015 International Film Festival of India in Panaji, the colour of the carpet is not the only thing

'Indian films when go to the film market at Cannes'

'Nobody talks about content anymore'

Formula Vs Content

Restored version of Amma Ariyan screened at Cannes



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GRAND VITARA

Satheesan's welfare push as UDF back in office after 10 yrs

Ayyappan.V@timesofindia.com

Nine-year-old Vinodini, whom Satheesan had helped after she lost a hand in alleged medical negligence, interacts with Rahul Gandhi

Thiruvananthapuram: Congress-led UDF returned to office in Kerala after a decade as six-term MLA VD Satheesan took oath as CM before a roaring crowd at Thiruvananthapuram's Central Stadium on Monday and signalled a sharp political reset through a string of welfare measures, administrative changes and a fresh probe into a politically sensitive assault case linked to former CM Pinarayi Vijayan's Nava Kerala Yatra in 2023.

Thousands packed stadium galleries, climbed barricades and spilled onto roads hours before the ceremony began, turning Kerala capital's administrative core into a carnival of white-clad supporters, party workers and waving flags. Traffic ground to a halt across several places as police struggled to manage swelling crowds and late surges towards the stadium.

Governor Rajendra Arlekar administered oath to Satheesan, 61, at 10.17am to a thunderous applause. He was joined by a 20-member ministry that included PK Kunhalikutty, Ramesh Chennithala, Sunny Joseph, K Muraleedharan and KA Thulasi, who took oath last.

Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge, Lok Sabha opposition leader Rahul Gandhi, Wayanad MP Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, Karnataka CM Siddaramaiah, deputy CM DK Shivakumar, Telangana CM A Revanth Reddy and IUML functionary Sayyid Sadiq Ali Shihab Thangal attended the ceremony alongside religious heads and senior Congress functionaries.

Former CM Vijayan, whose LDF lost April assembly polls after two consecutive terms in office, also attended and congratulated Satheesan — a moment rich in political symbolism as Kerala formally closed chapter on a decade of Left govt.

G Sudhakaran will serve as pro-tem speaker when assembly session begins May 21. MLAs will take oath same day, speaker election is scheduled for May 22 and new govt's policy address for May 29.

The swearing-in capped two weeks of fraught negotiations within Congress over CM's post and cabinet berths after May 4 verdict handed UDF 103 seats in 140-member assembly. Delay in naming the CM had stirred unease within 63-MLA Congress bloc and its allies.

Satheesan moved swiftly to stamp authority on administration and underline UDF's welfare-first pitch. First cabinet meeting cleared free travel for women in KSRTC buses from June 15, a Rs 3,000 increase in ASHA workers' honorarium and creation of a separate department for senior citizens, which CM described as a first-of-its-kind initiative in country.

"The protection of senior citizens is essential for building a civilised society," Satheesan said.

9-year-old boy dies during celebrations

Kannur: A 9-year-old boy, identified as Aman, was killed after a firecracker exploded in his hand at Punnakkapara near Azhikode town in Kerala's Kannur district on Monday. Three other children suffered injuries in the explosion. According to police, the mishap occurred at a ground where UDF workers were celebrating the swearing-in of chief minister V D Satheesan. TNN

Justice Varma report to be tabled in Parl

▶ Continued from page 1

Under the Judges (Inquiry) Act, Parliament can take up a motion for removal of only serving judges. "The judges inquiry committee, investigating allegations concerning Justice Yashwant Varma, submitted its report to Speaker Om Birla today. The report, which was presented in accordance with the statutory requirements under the Judges (Inquiry) Act, 1968, will be laid before both Houses of Parliament in due course," an LS secretariat statement said.

Justice Kumar submitted a report to LS Speaker Om Birla

The committee was constituted under the Act by Birla after over 150 MPs across party lines had submitted in July last year a motion to this effect.

However, former LS secretary general P D T Achary said a judge's resignation is effective from the time it is sent to President and need not require to be formally accepted. Varma was indicted by a committee constituted by then CJI Sanjiv Khanna following the discovery of a large amount of charred and partially burnt wads of currency notes at his official premises in March 2025, first reported by **TOI**.

Bombay high court Chief Justice Shree Chandrashekhar and Karnataka HC senior advocate B V Acharya were the two other members of the committee tasked with probing the charges.

At the time of the cash discovery, Varma was posted in Delhi HC. He was subsequently transferred to Allahabad HC, his parent cadre, but was kept off active duty. Though he denied the allegation of financial impropriety and claimed ignorance of how the money landed at the outhouse of his premises, demand has grown for his ouster and legal action against his alleged corruption.

13 killed, 20 injured in Maha road accident

Palghar: Thirteen people were killed and over 20 sustained serious injuries after a container truck, trying to avoid a pickup truck on the wrong lane, overturned on it near Dhaniwari village in Dahanu on the Mumbai-Ahmedabad NH-48 around 4pm on Monday. The pickup, going towards Gujarat on the Mumbai-bound lane, was carrying an engagement party, and the driver had allegedly avoided taking a designated U-turn located nearly a kilometre away and had instead taken an illegal shortcut, **reports Vishal Rajemahadik**.

Authorities fear the death toll could increase as several of those injured remain in critical condition. The pickup was carrying nearly 50 passengers from Bapugaon Khadakipada, Dahanu, to Dhaniwari village for the engagement ceremony of the groom, Balaram Dandekar, at the bride's house.

32001/239/2627

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E-Mail : cemlpwr.od@gmail.com

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2. **O & M Period** : 60 (Sixty) calendar months.
3. **Date & time of availability of bid document in the portal** : 20.05.2026 10 A.M.
4. **Last date/Time for receipt of bids in the portal** : 09.06.2026 up to 5.00 P.M
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Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal **"https://tendersodisha.gov.in"**

Sd/-
Chief Engineer,
Megalift, Bhubaneswar
OIPR-32001/32504/1/26-27/0006

SC underscores judicial discipline

▶ Continued from page 1

SC said presumption of innocence is the cornerstone of any civilised society governed by the rule of law. "Statutes may undoubtedly calibrate the manner in which that principle is applied, particularly in cases involving national security or terrorist offences for which the UAP Act is meant, but those cannot altogether invert the constitutional relationship between liberty and detention".

Analysing various verdicts passed by SC which followed Najeeb's rulings, the bench said, "It is evident from a reading of the two judgments in Gurwinder Singh and Gulfisha Fatima (relating to Delhi riots case) that the two-judge bench has made a clear departure from the ratio laid down in K A Najeeb (case). Judicial discipline and certainty demands that benches of smaller strength are mindful of decisions rendered by larger benches and are bound to follow the same."

"If the smaller benches are unable to agree with the ratio laid down by the larger bench then the proper and the only course of action open is to make a reference to the Hon'ble CJI for placing the matter for consideration by a still larger bench. Being in a combination of two judges, we are bound by the ratio laid down by the three-judge bench in K A Najeeb. We say this and no more," the bench said while granting bail to an accused in a UAPA case. It said the Najeeb case, where bail was granted to an alleged PFI member, is a binding law and cannot be diluted, circumvented, or disregarded by trial courts, high courts or even by benches of lower strength of this court.

6 dead as speeding truck hits autorickshaw in Bihar

Kshitiz@timesofindia.com

Patna: Six people, including a two-month-old infant, died and six others were seriously injured when a speeding truck hit an autorickshaw on NH-31 in Bihar's Khagaria district Monday. The injured were admitted to Khagaria Sadar Hospital.

The truck driver escaped after the accident, which occurred around 2pm.

According to eyewitnesses, the truck was moving at a very high speed when it hit the autorickshaw head-on. It then collided with a parked SUV and finally crashed into a van while the driver was allegedly trying to flee.

CM Samrat Choudhary condoled the deaths and directed the disaster management department to provide an ex gratia of Rs 4 lakh each to the families of the deceased.

PUBLIC NOTICE

We are undertaking a title investigation on the immovable properties bearing Survey Nos. 54/3 and 54/5, admeasuring 01 Acre 20 Guntas (excluding 01.12 Guntas of 'B' Kharab), both situated at Rayasandra Village, Kasaba Hobli, Devanahalli Taluk, Bangalore Rural District, more fully described in the '**Schedule**' hereto and hereinafter collectively referred to as '**Schedule Properties**'. The said title due diligence is being conducted for and on behalf of our Client who is desirous of entering into a sale transaction in relation to the Schedule Properties. Mrs. Dhanalakshmi (wife of Mrs. M. Venugopal) and Mrs. Prabha K (wife of Mr. M. Krishnamurthy) ('**Owners**') have represented to our Client that they are the joint and absolute Owners of the Schedule Properties and have unrestricted rights of alienation over the same.

Notice is hereby given to the general public that any person/s other than the Owners, asserting any right, title, charge, lien, claim/s or any interest whatsoever in respect of the Schedule Properties are hereby called upon to submit to the undersigned, their claim/s, if any, over the Schedule Properties or submit their objections, if any, to the aforementioned transaction. The said claim/s or objections must be in writing, together with documentary proof to support such claim/s or objections and must be delivered to us at the address given below within a period of **12 (twelve) days** from the date of publication of this Notice. If no such claim/s or objections are received, it shall be deemed that no one else other than the Owners has/have any right, title, interest or claim whatsoever in respect of the Schedule Properties and our Client would be at liberty to proceed with the said transaction in connection with the Schedule Properties.

SCHEDULE
(Description of the Schedule Properties)

All that piece and parcel of the following immovable properties situated at Rayasandra Village, Kasaba Hobli, Devanahalli Taluk, Bangalore Rural District, more fully described in the table below:

Sl No.	Survey Nos.	Extent		B Kharab (in Guntas)	Boundaries			
		Acres	Guntas		East by	West by	North by	South by
1.	54/3	01	00	01	Survey No. 54/4;	Survey Nos. 54/7 and 54/2;	Road;	Survey Nos. 51 and 52.
2.	54/5	00	20	0.12	Survey No. 54/6	Survey No. 54/4;	Road;	Survey No. 51

Sd/-
Mr. Srinivas B.R., Partner
DSK Legal,
Prestige Loka, No. 201, 2nd Floor, No. 7/1 & 7/7,
Brunton Road, Bengaluru – 560025, Tel: 080-69548770.
Date : 19.05.2026
Place : Bengaluru

PUBLIC NOTICE

Our clients are desirous of purchasing all that piece and parcel of residentially converted lands bearing **Survey Nos.35/1, 58/8, 59/3, 59/5, 59/6, 59/7 and 59/9 all situated at Kavarnahalli Village, Kasaba Hobli, Chikkaballapura Taluk, Chikkaballapura District,** morefully described in Item Nos.1 to 7 of Schedule below (**"Schedule Property"**), from its present owner Enukondla Chandana wife of Santhosh Kumar residing at No. 299, 14th Main, 26th cross, Siddanna Layout, Banashankari 2nd stage, Bangalore 560 070 (**"Owner"**). Any person or persons asserting any right, title, interest or claim in the Schedule Property or any part thereof, in any manner whatsoever or having any claim against the Schedule Property or the documents thereof or against the Owners or objecting to such transaction with our clients, should write to the undersigned within **ten days (10 days)** from the date of issuance of this notice with all documentary proof on which they are basing and asserting their rights with regard to Schedule Property or any part thereof, after which period our clients shall proceed on the basis that there are no claims of whatsoever nature with regard to the Schedule Property.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of residentially converted lands i.e., **Item Nos. 1 to 7,** all situated at **Kavarnahalli Village, Kasaba Hobli, Chikkaballapura Taluk, Chikkaballapura District,** in all measuring about **09 Acres 11 Guntas, exclusive of 01 Acre 04 Guntas of kharab,** the details of the survey numbers, extent and boundaries are set out below: -

Item Nos	Sy. No.	Actual Extent		Kharab Extent		Bounded by			
		A	G	A	G	East by	West by	North by	South by
1	35/1	04	27 ¼	0	21	Survey Nos. 30, 33 & 34	Survey No.59/6	Survey No.35/2	Survey Nos. 33, 34, 63, 64, 65
2	58/8	00	10	00	00	Survey No.59/5	Public road	Survey No.58/10	Survey No.72
3	59/3	00	34	00	05	Survey No.59/7	Survey No.59/9	Survey No.59/8	Survey No.60
4	59/5	00	26 ½	00	05	Survey No.59/9	Survey Nos. 58/8, 58/10 & 72	Survey No.59/10	Survey No.60
5	59/6	01	03 ¼	00	05	Survey No.35/1	Survey No.59/7	Survey No.59/1	Survey No.62
6	59/7	00	38	00	05	Survey No.59/6	Survey No.59/3	Survey No.59/2	Survey Nos.60 & 62
7	59/9	00	32	00	03	Survey No.59/3	Survey No.59/5	Survey No.59/4	Survey No.60
Total		09	11	01	04				

(GEETHA K.N) Advocate
CMS IndusLaw,
No.101, 1st Floor," Embassy classic", No.11,
Vittal Mallya Road, Bangalore - 560001, Ph : 080 4072 6600
Date : 18-05-2026
Bangalore

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NOTICE OF REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)

REF NO: SBOSS/RFP/PPSC/2026-27/007

Applications are invited by State Bank Operations Support Services Pvt. Ltd. (SBOSS) from eligible applicants for Engagement to provide Payroll Processing & Statutory Compliance Related to Payroll Processing Services. Detailed RFP is available on **https://sboss.net.in/Corporate Governance/Notice**. Last date and time for submission of proposal is 06.06.2026, 17:00 Hrs.

Place: Mumbai **Chief Operating Officer**
Date: 19.05.2026 **SBOSS**

GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
AP MARITIME BOARD
2nd Floor IHC Building, Mangalagiri

NOTIFICATION

Applications are invited from "the in-service or Retired CEs/Dy.CEs who have vast professional knowledge in port infrastructure in the Central /State Govt., organizations, Major/non-major ports, for the Posts of Dy. Chief Engineer & Chief Engineer in APMB to work on Deputation/ Re-Appointment on Contract Basis".
Interested candidates may submit their applications for the above-mentioned positions from 19-05-2026.
For detailed notification and other information, please visit our APMB official website **https://apmaritime.in.**

Sd/-ABHISHEK KUMAR, IAS.,
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
AP MARITIME BOARD

DIPR No:5099PP/CL/ADVT/1/1/2021-22 Dt:18/05/2026

PUBLIC NOTICE

We are undertaking a title investigation on the immovable property more fully described in the '**Schedule**' hereto and hereinafter referred to as '**Schedule Property**'. The said title due diligence is being conducted for and on behalf of our Client who is desirous of entering into a Joint Development Agreement in relation to the Schedule Property with the present owner namely Mrs. Jameela Banu wife of Mr. Ajaz Ahmed (daughter of Mr. C. K. Abdulla Khan), residing at 45, 5th cross, Chinnarayappa Street, Vasanth Nagar, Bangalore – 560051 ('**Owner**'). The Owner has represented to our Client that she is the absolute Owner of the Schedule Property and has unrestricted rights of alienation over the same.

Notice is hereby given to the general public that any person/s other than the Owner, asserting any right, title, charge, lien, claim/s or any interest whatsoever in respect of the Schedule Property are hereby called upon to submit to the undersigned, their claim/s, if any, over the Schedule Property or submit their objections, if any, to the aforementioned transaction. The said claim/s or objections must be in writing, together with documentary proof to support such claim/s or objections and must be delivered to us at the address given below within a period of 15 (fifteen) days from the date of publication of this Notice. If no such claim/s or objections are received, it shall be deemed that no one else other than the Owner has any right, title, interest or claim whatsoever in respect of the Schedule Property and our Client would be at liberty to proceed with the said transaction in connection with the Schedule Property.

SCHEDULE
(Description of the Schedule Property)

All that piece and parcel of immovable property admeasuring 03 Acres 18 Guntas (excluding 05 Guntas of Kharab) in Survey No. 31/2, situated at Nimbekalpura Village, Bidarahalli Hobli, Hoskote Taluk, and bounded as follows: East by: Land bearing Sy no. 32 and 31/1; West by: Road and portion of Sy. No. 52; North by: Land bearing Sy nos. 26,32,35 & 33; and South by: Remaining portion of Sy. No. 31/2.

Mr. Srinivas B.R., Partner, **DSK Legal,**
Prestige Loka, No. 201, 2nd Floor, No. 7/1 & 7/7, Brunton Road,
Bengaluru – 560025. Tel: 080-69548770

Date: 19.05.2026 Place: Bengaluru

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A TIMES INTERNET INITIATIVE

Delivering Growth, Resilience and Sustainability, Together

By Narendra Modi & Ulf Kristersson

India has emerged as one of the world's fastest-growing major economies while pursuing one of the world's largest renewable energy transitions

At a time of growing geopolitical uncertainty, energy insecurity and economic fragmentation, the world faces a defining choice: retreat into narrow national approaches or strengthen partnerships that deliver growth, resilience and sustainability together.

As the United Nations marks its 80th anniversary, the value of international cooperation and multilateralism has become even more evident. At the same time, the need to reform global governance institutions to reflect contemporary realities has become impossible to ignore.

A rules-based international order anchored in international law and sovereign equality has helped create decades of relative stability and development. Yet today's challenges of climate change, industrial transformation, supply-chain disruptions and energy transition require a renewed spirit of practical and inclusive cooperation.

Few challenges are as universal or consequential as climate change. It affects societies and economies across all regions, whether in India, Sweden or elsewhere. But climate action cannot be divorced from development aspirations. Billions of people continue to seek better living standards, jobs, modern infrastructure and energy access. Delivering growth and opportunity while advancing sustainability is therefore not a contradiction; it is the defining economic and political task of our times.

India has emerged as one of the world's fastest-growing major economies while pursuing one of the world's largest renewable energy transitions. The approach is guided by a clear objective: to bridge climate ambition with development realities. As a major growth engine and a responsible voice of the Global South, India's two defining milestones for the near future are to achieve developed country status by 2047 and net zero emissions by 2070. These domestic goals are deeply intertwined.

Thanks to global cooperation, including Lead It and other global platforms that India has formed with the United Nations and international partners — including the International Solar Alliance, the Global Biofuels Alliance, and Mission LiFE, India is a responsible voice of the Global South.

Simultaneously, Sweden leads the way in European climate action. Thanks to bold decisions taken decades ago, the electric grid is 98 per cent fossil-free. The contribution of the private sector in innovation and exports of climate-friendly solutions cannot be overstated. All in all, emissions have decreased by more than a third since 1990 — and during this time, the size of Sweden's economy has almost doubled.

The approaches of India and Sweden reflect a broader belief that climate action can create jobs, expand opportunity, strengthen energy security and improve lives. The aim is not only to decarbonise domestic development pathways but also to help build partnerships that make clean industrialisation at scale possible.

It is in this spirit that India and Sweden met in Gothenburg on May 17. Our partnership reflects a shared conviction that industrial transformation can be driven through collaboration between governments, industry, innovators and financial institutions. The green transition is not only an environmental imperative; it is also central to competitiveness, economic resilience and long-term growth.

India and Sweden have demonstrated the value of such cooperation through the Leadership Group for Industry Transition (LeadIT), launched jointly by both countries in 2019 with the support of the United Nations. LeadIT has helped place industrial decarbonisation and hard-to-abate sectors at the centre of the global climate discussion. More importantly, it has shown that developed and developing economies can co-create solutions through trust, innovation and shared responsibility.

Today, however, the scale and urgency of the challenge demand that we move further and faster.

The next phase of Lead IT should move from words to action, meaning implementation at scale. It has proved to be a useful platform for action by accelerating technology partnerships, enabling industrial pilot projects, mobilising sustainable finance, strengthening resilient clean-energy supply chains and building globally competitive low-carbon industries.

The next phase should aim to support workforce transitions, skills development and financial architecture that reduce risk and lower the cost of capital for industrial transformation.

Not every country needs to invent every solution, but every country should have the opportunity to adapt, deploy and scale technologies suited to its developmental circumstances and priorities. Emissions do not recognise borders, and neither can the solutions.

We therefore call for a broadening and deepening of this coalition through 2030. We invite more countries, including Nordic partners with strong innovation ecosystems and clean technology leadership, to join and actively contribute to this effort. The industrial transition can succeed only if it can deliver tangible economic value and social progress.

Solar, wind, hydropower, nuclear energy, storage technologies and low-carbon industrial solutions will all have important roles to play depending on national circumstances and priorities.

No country can secure every critical technology, mineral or industrial input alone. Nor can any nation address climate change in isolation. Emissions do not recognise borders — which is why solutions must be international.

The opportunity before us extends far beyond climate policy. It is about shaping a new era of industrial cooperation.

India and Sweden remain committed. At a moment of global uncertainty, our message is clear: cooperation, rather than fragmentation, will define the pathway to shared prosperity and a sustainable future.

The writers are Prime Ministers of India & Sweden

Ex-bureaucrat Tuteja gets bail in DMF case

Apex Court Banishes Him From C'garh

Dhananjay.Mahapatra @timesofindia.com

New Delhi: Accused of involvement in multiple scams, former Chhattisgarh bureaucrat Anil Tuteja will come out of jail more than two years after his arrest in April 2024 as Supreme Court granted him bail in the Rs 600 crore DMF scam case on Monday. However, SC banished him from the state.

Appearing for Tuteja, advocate Shoeb Alam told a bench of CJI Surya Kant and justice Joymalya Bagchi that despite his client being given bail in all other cases in which he was arrested, he had been in custody since his first arrest on April 21, 2024.

"The moment the state govt finds that Tuteja is about to get bail in one case, they get him arrested in another case to keep him in custody. This evergreening of arrest must not be permitted by the judiciary," Alam said.

For Chhattisgarh, additional advocate general Ravi Sharma told the bench that the offence is grave in nature, as the accused had attempted to siphon funds meant for the welfare of tribals. Sharma drew the court's attention to WhatsApp chats of Tuteja from 2019 purportedly indicating attempts by him to influence the course of justice in league with then law officers of state in cases against him, which include those relating to the rice-milling scam, DMF scam, coal scam, liquor scam, Nagrik Apurti Nigam (PDS) scam and Mahadev betting app scam.

Though the CJI-led bench granted Tuteja bail, it said, "Since the petitioner has held an affluent position in the state... it is directed that the petitioner shall stay outside Chhattisgarh."

These days, even the dead ask about status of their cases, argues lawyer

In a novel way of requesting SC for early hearing of a decade-and-half-old appeal, advocate Ejaz Maqbool shunned the blunt 'justice delayed is justice denied' argument to philosophically tell SC — "Aaj kal murde bhi puchte hain ki mera case ka kya hua? (These days even the dead ask for the status of their cases)".

It was a soft reminder to the judiciary that pendency of cases is huge and many people perish awaiting the fruits of litigation initiated due to their trust and faith in the three-tier justice delivery system, which in reality grinds the underprivileged the most despite vigorous efforts to provide legal aid.

Maqbool used the poetic argument to persuade a bench of CJI Surya Kant and justice Joymalya Bagchi for grant of early hearing for his client Kamlesh Laxmanbhai Patel, who began his journey in litigation in 2005 against Moonshine Films. CJI Kant smiled but said the appeal would be taken up for hearing on its turn, refusing an out-of-turn hearing. **—Dhananjay Mahapatra**

SC: HC registrar general can't initiate proceedings against judicial officers

The 2018 public high drama at Haridwar of a district judge accompanied by police and child welfare committee members rescuing a minor girl employed and allegedly tortured by a judicial officer, which resulted in the latter's dismissal after an inquiry by Uttarakhand HC, went up in smoke in SC on Monday.

A bench of CJI Surya Kant and Justice Joymalya Bagchi found that the raid was ordered by HC's registrar general based on an anonymous complaint and that later inquiry proceedings against the 2008-batch judicial officer were also initiated by registrar general without any directive from either HC's CJ or committee of judges delegated with disciplinary powers. The bench upheld the HC's judicial order quashing the inquiry proceedings that had led to imposition of major penalty against judicial officer Deepali Sharma and directed her reinstatement. It clarified that it has not examined the merit of allegations. **— Dhananjay Mahapatra**

Haryana land deal case: Vadra withdraws plea, to face trial

New Delhi: Businessman **Robert Vadra** on Monday unconditionally withdrew his plea before the Delhi HC challenging the trial court order that had issued a summons to him on a chargesheet filed by ED last July.

ED had earlier countered Vadra's plea — which had argued that the agency's case is not based on a scheduled offence — saying it lacked merit and was based on a false legal submission.

Vadra, husband of Congress MP Priyanka Gandhi, had questioned the merit of ED's case related to a land deal in Shikohpur in Gurgaon on grounds that the deal was during 2008-2012, but the offences forming the basis of the ED case were only included in 2013.

ED had, however, countered these claims and said the petitioner was "misleading on a false legal submission".

Now that Vadra has withdrawn the challenge, he will have to appear before the trial court to participate in proceedings on the charges to be framed against him in the money laundering case related to the land deal his firm, Skylight Hospitality, had entered into in 2008 for Rs 7.5 crore. The land was sold to DLF for Rs 50 crore in a matter of a few months.

This is a new case being investigated against Vadra with investigation in two other money laundering cases related to land deals in Haryana and Rajasthan underway. TNN

TOI LINE OF NO CONTROL SANDEEP ADHWARYU

RUPEE KEEPS WEAKENING
SPIRITUAL CIVILISATIONS DON'T WORSHIP MONEY
SHOPKEEPER STILL DOES
COLONIAL MINDSET WILL TAKE TIME
THE SHOPKEEPER IS HERE AGAIN... HE WANTS HIS MONEY

Sonipat man beaten to death over ₹1,500 grocery dues

Manoj Dhaka | TNN

Sonipat: A dispute allegedly over an unpaid grocery bill of Rs1,000-Rs1,500 triggered a violent confrontation in which a man was beaten to death in Haryana's Sonipat district late Saturday. Police arrested two suspects.

Victim Rajkumar's family had been purchasing groceries on credit from a shop run by Praveen, according to the complaint filed by Rajkumar's son, Rohit. On Saturday night, when Rohit was returning home from work, Praveen allegedly stopped him and demanded payment. Rohit sought a day or two to clear the dues, but the conversation spiralled into an argument. Sensing tension, he left the spot and went to his uncle Rajesh's house. Shortly afterwards, Praveen allegedly barged into Rohit's house along with four accomplices, and began attacking his grandmother, father, sister and aunt with sticks, the complaint stated.

When Rajkumar stepped in to stop the fight, Praveen allegedly grabbed him by the neck and slammed his head against a concrete pole. Rajkumar fell into a drain and sustained fatal injuries. He was taken to a govt hospital, where doctors declared him dead.

Based on Rohit's complaint, Kharkhoda police registered an FIR.

Boat iftar on Ganga: HC grants bail to remaining six accused

Rajesh Kumar Pandey | TNN

The additional advocate general said the accused not only desecrated the Ganga but also uploaded the video on Instagram

Prayagraj: Allahabad high court on Monday granted bail to remaining six youths accused of organising an iftar party on a boat on the Ganga in Varanasi two months ago and dumping non-veg biryani waste in the river.

Earlier, on May 15, the HC had granted bail to eight co-accused but observed that throwing non-vegetarian food waste into the Ganga could hurt the sentiments of Hindus. On Monday, Justice Rajiv Lochan Shukla cited the previous bails to say the other accused are also entitled to the relief. The 14 Muslim youths had been arrested on March 17 on a complaint by BJP Yuva Morcha's Varanasi chief Rajat Jaiswal. They were charged under various BNS Sections, including 298 (defiling a place of worship), 299 (acts intended to outrage religious feelings), 196 (1)(b) and (promoting enmity between different groups on the ground of religion).

Additional advocate general Anoop Trivedi opposed the bail pleas, saying the accused not only desecrated the Ganga but also uploaded the video on Instagram to disturb communal harmony. The HC concluded, however, that investigations "would not be impeded even if the applicants are released from custody". "Considering the totality of facts and circumstances of the case, the applicants are directed to be released on bail," Justice Shukla said.

Bus bursts into flames in Amethi, none injured

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Lucknow: A moving bus burst into flames in UP's Amethi on Ayodhya-Prayagraj highway on Monday morning. However, all 42 passengers, along with the driver and conductor escaped before the vehicle was gutted. The accident disrupted traffic on the highway for half an hour.

The fire was sparked by a short circuit, said the conductor of the bus, headed from Sultanpur to Pratapgarh. As the fire broke out, the bus staff immediately halted the vehicle near Durgapur crossing and evacuated everyone.

Visuals of the burning bus soon went viral.

55 pilgrims dead in first month of Char Dham yatra

Shivani.Azad @timesofindia.com

Dehradun: As many as 55 pilgrims have lost their lives due to health-related complications since the Char Dham yatra began on April 19, according to the latest report issued by the State Emergency Operation Centre of Uttarakhand. Doctors deployed on yatra duty said most of the pilgrims who died were aged above 55 and had underlying comorbidities.

In many cases, pilgrims either had insufficient time to acclimatise to the harsh weather conditions of the high-altitude terrain or were suffering from lifestyle-related diseases. During the corresponding period last year, 65 fatalities were reported, including deaths linked to both medical conditions and accidents.

Of the total fatalities, 30 were reported on the Kedarnath route, followed by 10 in Badrinath, eight in Yamunotri and seven on the way to Gangotri. So far, around 14.8 lakh pilgrims have visited the shrines, including nearly six lakh at Kedarnath, 3.8 lakh at Badrinath and around 2.4 lakh each at Yamunotri and Gangotri.

This year, the increasing number of children being brought on the pilgrimage by families has also emerged as a cause for concern. Officials said at least two children were among those who died due to health issues. According to official data, around 1,000 children were brought on the pilgrimage during the first fortnight of the yatra.

Dr Sunita Tamta, director general of medical health and family welfare, Uttarakhand, said, "Children below the age of five fall under the high-risk category because they are more vulnerable to hypoxia caused by lower oxygen levels at high altitudes."

4001/92/2627

ODISHA POWER GENERATION CORPORATION LIMITED
(A Government of Odisha undertaking)
AT-IB THERMAL POWER STATION, PO: BANAHARPALI, DIST: JHARSUGUDA, ODISHA-768234
Phone no: (Land Line No. 06645-289232/221/355/356/245)

Expression of Interest

OPGC invites sealed bids from bonafide and financially sound Registered Agencies /Firms /Companies for execution of the following Works & Supplies for its Thermal Power Plant at Banharpali.

SL. NO	Tender Enquiry No & Date	DESCRIPTION	Date of receipt & Submission/ Opening of EOI
1.	ITPS/CC-22/2026-27/02, Date: 18.05.2026	Supply of ash (Fly ash & Pond ash) free of cost from OPGC, IB Thermal Power Station At Banharpali, Jharsuguda, Odisha	Upto 15:00 HRS on 30.05.2026/ 15:30 HRS Onwards on 30.05.2026.
2.	ITPS/CC-22/2026-27/03, Date: 18.05.2026	Expression of Interest (EOI) for transportation and utilization of fly ash By rail / road-cum-rail mode:	Upto 15:00 HRS on 30.05.2026/ 15:30 HRS Onwards on 30.05.2026.

The detailed EOI along with Terms and Conditions are available for download at OPGC website at **www.opgc.co.in**. Addenda/Corrigenda/ Extensions, if any, will be notified on the OPGC website only and will not be published in any other media. Interested companies or entities may visit OPGC website for the tender timeline and other details.

Sd/-
DGM-Contracts
OIPR-4001/4067/1/26-27/0002

IDBI BANK LIMITED
Regd. Off. IDBI Tower, WTC Complex, Cuffe Parade, Mumbai-400 005
CIN No: L65190MH2004GOI148838

(1) **RFP For Data Center Expansion and Existing Data Center Works**
(2) **RFP For Renewal of Microsoft Cloud Based Office Productivity Tools**

IDBI Bank invites sealed proposals from eligible bidders for the above RFPs / Solution. Please visit Bank's website **https://www.idbi.bank.in** (Notices & Tenders) for details.
Note: Any further Addenda / Corrigenda / Extension of dates / Clarifications / Responses to bidders' queries in respect of the above RFPs shall be posted only on Bank's website and no separate notification shall be issued in the newspapers. Bidders are therefore requested to regularly visit Bank's website to keep themselves updated in this regard.

MAHARASHTRA STATE WAREHOUSING CORPORATION
583/B, Market Yard, Gultekdi, Pune – 411037
Phone: 020 –24206800/827/850, Web site: www.mswarehousing.com

E-Tender Notice No. 9 for the Year 2026-27 (First Call)
Construction of 2/6000 MT Capacity Pre Engineered Wh.bldg with ancillary works at Mankapur (Arvi),Dist. Wardha. E-tenders are invited through the e-tendering system from registered unregistered contractors for the above works. Detailed information is available on **www.mahatenders.gov.in** website under (Organization - Co-Operation & Marketing Textile, Mumbai). The period fo online tender available from 19.05.2026 to 26.05.2026 up to 6:00 PM.
Chairman and Managing Director

TRANSMISSION CORPORATION OF ANDHRA PRADESH LIMITED
(A Government of Andhra Pradesh Undertaking & An ISO 27001-2022 Certified Company)

NOTICE INVITING TENDER
The APTRANSCO invites bids online for Spec.No.PMM32-e-38/2026: Supply of 47 Nos. 220V,100AH VRLA Battery banks, 31 Nos. 220V,200AH VRLA Battery banks and 7 Nos. 220V,400AH VRLA Battery banks. Date & Time of availability of above tender:21.05.2026 at 6:00PM. Website: www.tender.apeprocurement.gov.in. Contact No.CE/Transmission:0866- 2429230.
RO.No: GMCC/APTRANSCO/36/26-27 Sd/- CHIEF ENGINEER / TRANSMISSION

ಜಂಟಿ ಕೃಷಿ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರ ಕಛೇರಿ,
ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಕಛೇರಿಗಳ ಕಟ್ಟಡ, ಮೈಸೂರು ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ, ಮೈಸೂರು
Ph: 0821-2442239, Fax: 0821-2523700,
email: dagrmys@rediffmail.com
ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಅಧಿಸೂಚನೆ ಸಂ: ಜಂಕೃನಿ/ಮೈ/ಲೆಕ್ಕ–1/ಹೊರಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ/ಸಿಬ್ಬಂದಿ/ಇ.ಟೆಂಡರ್/2026–27 ದಿನಾಂಕ:. 12–05–2026
ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಸಂಕ್ಷಿಪ್ತ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ
2026–27ನೇ ಸಾಲಿಗೆ ಈ ಕಛೇರಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಅಧೀನ ಕಛೇರಿಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಖಾಲಿ ಇರುವ ವಿವಿಧ ಹುದ್ದೆಗಳಿಗೆ ಹೊರಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ ಆಧಾರದಲ್ಲಿ ಸಿಬ್ಬಂದಿಗಳ ಸೇವೆ ಪಡೆಯುವ ನಿಮಿತ್ತ ಅರ್ಹತೆಯುಳ್ಳ ಏಜೆನ್ಸಿ/ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳಿಂದ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್: http:kppp.karnataka.gov.in ಮೂಲಕ ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಅನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ. ರೂ.3,10,000/– (ಮೂರು ಲಕ್ಷದ ಹತ್ತು ಸಾವಿರ ಮಾತ್ರ) ನ್ನು ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ನಲ್ಲಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸತಕ್ಕದ್ದು. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಬಿಡ್ ಗಳನ್ನು ಇ–ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ನಲ್ಲಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿ: 15.06.2026 ಸಂಜೆ 5 ಗಂಟೆಯ ವರೆಗೆ. ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು 17.06.2026 ರ ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ ತೆರೆಯಲಾಗುವುದು. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆಯು ಹೊರಡಿರುವ ಷರತ್ತು ಮತ್ತು ನಿಬಂಧನೆಗೆ ಒಳಪಟ್ಟಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರವನ್ನು ಮೇಲ್ಕಂಡ ವಿಳಾಸದಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು.
ಸಹಿ/– ಜಂಟಿ ಕೃಷಿ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು, ಮೈಸೂರು ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ, ಮೈಸೂರು
DIPR/DDMYS/196/KSMCA/144/2026-27

Government of Tamil Nadu
Arulmigu Dhandayuthapani Swamy Temple, Palani.

Re-Tender Notice for the Fasali Year 1436
Notice seeking tenders for supply of materials for the Fasali year 1436 (From the date of order to 30.06.2027) in Arulmigu Dhandayuthapani Swamy Temple, Palani Town, Palani Taluk, Dindigul District.
(1) Website for submission of Tender : The tenders are invited through the website **https://tntenders.gov.in.** The bidders must possess digital signature certificate for submission of bids online. (2) Last date for submission of tender : **19.06.2026 A.N 01.00** (3) Date of Pre-Bid Meeting : **05.06.2026 A.N 12.00** (4) Tender Opening Date and Time : **19.06.2026 A.N 04.00** (5) Venue of Tender opening : **Temple Head Office.**
Items of Tender : 1) **Supply of Karpooravalli Banana, Kudagu Banana and Mountain Banana for the production of Panchamirtham.**
Tender Deposit Amount and Solvency Amount: **Rs.400.00 Lakhs.** Tender Deposit should be paid in the website **http://www.tntenders.gov.in.** The tender conditions are available in the above website.
S.Marimuthu, Joint Commissioner/Executive Officer
DIPR/1916/Tender/2026
K.M.Subramaniyan, Chairman of Trust Board, **K.Dhanasekar,** Trustee, **S.Balasubramani,** Trustee, **G.R.Balasubramaniyam,** Trustee, **C.Annapoorani,** Trustee.

DEPARTMENT OF SCHOOL EDUCATION
Office of The Commissioner, Nrupatunga Road, Bangalore-560001 Ph.:080-22213129

No:DPI/2026-27/IND0663/CALL 2 Date:18.05.2026

SHORT TERM RE-TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through KPP Portal Only)
The Director (Minority), Office of the Commissioner, Department of School Education, Bengaluru-01 invites Short term re-tender tender as per the KTPP Act, 1999 from the Manufacturer/ Dealer/Suppliers for Supply of Sandals in five Districts those who are studying in Government Higher Primary & High School students in the State of Karnataka for the year 2026-27 through e-Procurement portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**
The last date for uploading the documents : **26.05.2026 upto 5.00 p.m.**
Sd/-
The Director (Minority),
Office of the Commissioner.
DIPR/CP/JA/722/2026-27

कार्यालय परियोजना प्रबन्धक, यूनिट-01 कन्सट्रक्शन एण्ड डिजाइन सर्विसेज, उत्तर प्रदेश जल निगम (नगरीय), (उ0प्र0 सरकार का उपक्रम), का0पता : भवन सं0-6, कृष्णा कुटीर, व्हाईट हाउस, फेज-2, वीरास्वामी रेड्डी ले-आउट के समीप, कांदुगौड़ी, बैंगलुरू
पत्रांक :– 544 / एम–6 / 108 दिनांक 15.05.2026
ई-निविदा सूचना
उत्तर प्रदेश जल निगम की ओर से अधोहस्ताक्षरी द्वारा CONSTRUCTION OF BOYS HOSTEL AT DR HARI SINGH GAUR VISHWA-VIDYALAYA, SAGAR (MP) के निर्माण कार्य, अनुमानित लागत रु० 8924.58 लाख (INCLUDING GST & LABOUR CESS AND EXCLUDING EPF AND ESI) हेतु दिनांक 15.06.2026 के अपरान्ह 04:00 बजे तक ई-निविदा आमन्त्रित की जाती हैं। उक्त कार्य हेतु ई-निविदा प्रपत्र दिनांक 16.05.2026 से दिनांक 15.06.2026 के मध्य उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार की e-procurement वेबसाइट https://etender.up.nic.in से डाउनलोड किये जा सकते है तथा ई-निविदा दिनांक 16.06.2026 को अपरान्ह 12:30 बजे कार्यालय परियोजना प्रबन्धक, यूनिट -01, सी०एण्ड डी०एस० उ०प्र० जल निगम (नगरीय), भवन सं०–6, कृष्णा कुटीर व्हाईट हाउस, फेज-2, वीरास्वामी रेड्डी ले-आउट के समीप, कांदुगौडी, बैंगलुरु में खोली जायेगी। ई-निविदा प्रपत्र का मूल्य रु० 20,000.00 + GST@18% अतिरिक्त देय होगा।
निविदा से सम्बन्धित विस्तृत विवरण विभाग की वेबसाइट www.cdsupjn.org एवं प्रोक्योमेन्ट पोर्टल https://etender.up.nic.in पर उपलब्ध है। समस्त शुद्धि पत्र (Corrigendum) https://etender.up.nic.in पर ही अपलोड किये जाँयगे, इनका पृथक से कोई प्रकाशन नहीं किया जायेगा। निविदादाताओं को सलाह दी जाती है कि वे उक्त वेबसाईट का समय-समय पर अवलोकन करते रहें।

12 rescued from major fire at Prayagraj hotel

Prayagraj: Twelve people were rescued after a major fire broke out at a hotel on Mahatma Gandhi Marg in the Civil Lines area of the city on Monday. Property worth crores of rupees was gutted in the inferno, hotel staff said. Teams from the fire department, police, and administration launched a rescue operation, safely pulling out guests and hotel staff, who were trapped inside the building.

The hotel management had earlier notified the electricity department about a fault in a transformer located nearby, following which electricians arrived there for repair work.

"During the repair work, a massive explosion occurred. The hotel management alerted police. The fire that originated from the transformer spread to the hotel's exterior facade lighting. The blaze spread rapidly and engulfed the hotel's fourth and top floors," a staff member of the hotel said. TNN

At 47.6° C, UP's Banda is world's hottest city for 2nd time this summer

Mohsin Usmani | TNN

Lucknow: As intense heat continues across Uttar Pradesh on Monday, Banda emerged as the hottest city in the world for the second time this summer, recording a maximum temperature of 47.6 degrees celsius, 4.1 degrees above normal. On April 28, Banda topped the world with mercury touching 47.6 degrees celsius.

Banda, in the Bundelkhand region, was the fifth hottest place in the world on Sunday at 46.4 degrees celsius. The district was also the hottest place in India for the second consecutive day on Monday, when its temperature surpassed global hotspots including Tragen in Libya (46.8°C) and South of Valley University in Egypt (46.2°C).

Met officials said that since Banda has a rocky terrain, these rocks heat up and take a long time to cool down. These heated rocks also significantly raise temperatures of the surrounding area.

According to the India Meteorological Department (IMD), southern districts of UP remain the worst affected, with Bundelkhand and adjoining regions experiencing the harshest conditions. Prayagraj recorded 46.8 degrees celsius, 5.5 degrees above normal. Jhansi registered 45.7 degrees celsius, and Hamirpur 45.6 degrees celsius. In eastern and western regions, Varanasi and Bulandshahr each recorded 45 degrees celsius.

IMD said heat conditions are likely to intensify further in the coming days, with the hot and dry wind "loo" sweeping across most parts of the state at 40-50 km per hour. The Met office said clear skies and persistent westerly winds are creating conditions for a prolonged heat spell.

Got a raise? Here's why your in-hand salary could still fall

Preeti.Kulkarni@timesofindia.com

For many salaried employees, the appraisal season was anything but routine this year. Some organisations rolled out increments, effective April 1, alongside salary structures aligned with the new labour codes, while others introduced tax-exempt allowances — such as meal coupons, children's education and hostel expenses — whose limits were raised under the new Income Tax rules. Many companies are yet to announce hikes or restructure salaries, but are already running internal simulations around the labour codes as part of their preparations.

Employees need to be aware that a salary hike this season may not translate into a matching rise in take-home pay. Under the labour codes, employers must consider 50% of total remuneration while calculating social security benefits such as Employees' Provident Fund (EPF), gratuity and Employees' State Insurance (ESI). A higher allocation towards these benefits could reduce in-hand salary. "Since many organisations previously had basic pay below 50% of cost-to-company (CTC), the gratuity amount was lower earlier; with the revised structure, it has increased in many cases," says Archit Gupta, founder and CEO, ClearTax, a tax consultancy portal.

"While the April-May appraisal cycle has prompted many companies to review compensation structures, a broad-based labour code-compliant rollout across India Inc is still not evident," says Shailesh Khanna, business lead, ManpowerGroup India. Many employers are using this cycle to assess revised salary breakups. "Many others remain cautious, preferring to align changes with clearer implementation timelines, state-level readiness and market practice," he says.

Experts feel the process is likely to be staggered. "While several organisations have evaluated their structure with the wage definition under the codes and realigned the same as part of the annual appraisal cycle, others are still in the process. However, given that the final central rules have been notified in May, there is a growing sense of urgency," says Radhika Viswanathan, executive director, Deloitte India. "Some organisations have rolled out increments along with labour codes-compliant compensation structures in April. Many others are likely to announce hikes only in May and June," says Balasubramanian A, senior vice-president, Teamlease Services.

Despite higher exemptions under old, new tax regime retains edge

Despite the recently-enhanced children's education and hostel allowances under the new I-T rules, the new tax regime scores unless you claim HRA under the old regime

	Old Tax Regime		New Tax Regime	
	Without HRA	With HRA	With Meal Coupons	Without Meal Coupons
Gross salary	60,00,000	60,00,000	60,00,000	60,00,000
Less: Meal coupon exemption	1,05,600	1,05,600	1,05,600	-
Less: Children's education allowance	72,000	72,000	-	-
Less: Hostel Allowance	2,16,000	2,16,000	-	-
Less: Tax-saver deductions	1,50,000	1,50,000		
Less: Interest paid on housing loan/HRA	2,00,000	15,00,000		
Standard deduction	50,000	50,000	75,000	75,000
Taxable salary	52,06,400	39,06,400	58,19,400	59,25,000
Tax	13,74,420	9,84,420	13,25,820	13,57,500
Surcharge	1,37,442	-	1,32,582	1,35,750
Cess	60,474	39,377	58,336	59,730
Total Tax Payable	**15,72,336**	**10,23,797**	**15,16,738**	**15,52,980**

Notes and assumptions: 1. Children's education allowance and hostel allowance are allowed as exemptions only under the old tax regime, as per the new I-T Act rules. 2. Meal coupons @ Rs 200 per meal (44 a month) are allowed under both the regimes. 3. Old tax regime calculations exclude HRA when home loan interest deduction is claimed and vice- versa. 4. Actual HRA claimed is fully tax-exempt; 5. Employers' contribution to NPS not taken into account 6. All numbers in rupees

Source: ClearTax

Labour Codes' Impact Decoded

By combining appraisals with labour code-linked implementation, organisations are mitigating the impact of reduced take-home pay due to the increased statutory social security obligations. "For example, if someone with a Rs 100 CTC receives an 8% increment, they may expect take-home pay to rise by Rs 8. However, if their EPF wages were below Rs 50 to begin with, or they come under the ambit of ESI for the first time, then it is possible that out of the Rs 8 increment, a part of it, say Rs 3, could go towards meeting the additional statutory obligations," says Subramanian.

Employees with basic salaries below Rs 15,000 may see a dip in take-home pay as gratuity and EPF components rise. Regarding the EPF impact for higher earners, Viswanathan says: "The basic salary is predominantly retained at the same levels in the realigned structure and hence there is no impact on the EPF contribution for those with a monthly basic salary of over Rs 15,000."

Balasubramanian adds that a pattern is emerging where companies move towards a higher basic pay component. "While this strengthens long-term retirement savings and social security coverage, it can also reduce immediate take-home pay, which is why some firms are adopting phased adjustments," he says.

For those with basic pay above the Rs 15,000 EPF wage ceiling, the impact could depend on the employers' policies. "In many companies, EPF for higher-salaried employees was already being capped rather than calculated on the full basic," says Balasubramanian. In such cases, the pay structure is rejigged to comply with the codes, but the monthly take-home remains stable. "In many cases, provident fund contributions may still remain capped at Rs 1,800. In such cases, take-home will not be impacted," he adds.

Old Regime Back In Focus

The appraisal season has also seen greater use of flexible benefit components following the notification of the new income tax rules (linked to the Income Tax Act, 2025). "Companies are increasingly using meal benefits, education-related allowances, wellness benefits and reimbursement-based components to maintain tax efficiency," says Keyur D Gandhi, managing partner at Gandhi Law Associates.

The rules have significantly raised tax-exemption limits under the old regime. Children's education allowance has increased from Rs 100 to Rs 3,000 per month per child (maximum two children), while hostel allowance has been raised from Rs 300 to Rs 9,000 per month per child. Residents of Bengaluru, Pune, Hyderabad and Ahmedabad are now eligible for house rent allowance (HRA) exemption of up to 50% of basic salary, up from 40%, bringing them on a par with Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata. Meal coupon exemption has gone up from Rs 50 to Rs 200 per meal and is now available under both tax regimes.

While the new regime offers lower rates and friendlier tax slabs, the recently-hiked tax-exempt allowances under the old regime could necessitate a recalculation. ClearTax calculations show that for high-income earners (gross salary over Rs 60 lakh), the new regime could retain the edge, unless you claim HRA *(see graphic)*.

Even after exhausting exemptions other than HRA, tax outgo under the new regime will be lower. Under the new regime, utilising meal coupons can cut outgo by nearly Rs 36,000 (against not using the benefit). Fuel reimbursement and car leases remain beneficial under both regimes. Finally, your choice of tax regime will depend partly on how much paperwork you are willing to handle. With the income tax department tightening scrutiny of deduction claims, taxpayers opting for exemptions should keep documentary proof, in case needed.

Know your spending to grow your wealth

Abhinav.Kaul@timesofindia.com

Most people don't truly know where their money goes — and that's where wealth-building actually starts. Before picking the right fund or stock, understanding your spending patterns matters more. Expense trackers and AI tools aren't just bookkeeping; they expose the hidden habits that shape your financial future.

A survey conducted between Aug and Sept 2025 by CGAP, a US-based think tank that promotes financial inclusion, found that 85% of personal finance management (PFM) app users in India reported improvements in their ability to manage their finances because of these tools, with 31% reporting significant improvement. Anjana Jayalakshmi, a 27-year-old senior content consultant from Chennai, started budgeting when she was 20, through rows and columns in Excel, spending two hours every month trying to assemble a complete picture from her own memory and bank messages. The effort was exhausting, and left gaps.

GoalSeek, a personal finance app, replaced those tedious hours with a pie chart she checks every 15 days. Jayalakshmi has seen almost 50% jump in her investments since she started using the app.

Palak Chauhan, founder and CEO of GoalSeek, a Sebi-registered investment adviser platform built on the account aggregator framework, tracks spending behaviour across thousands of users in India and says the trends are striking. "The amount of money people are spending on quick commerce is mind-boggling. For some people, the frequency is two, four, even five times a day on the same app and what they're not realising is that even Rs 100-500 orders add up to Rs 10,000-20,000 a month," she says.

Beyond quick commerce, Chauhan says the categories that have grown most visibly over the last two years are dining experiences, flights, vacations, pets and wellness, including salon and grooming. Upasana Mondal, a registered investment adviser and founder of DreamBluePrintz, works with clients across the income spectrum and begins every financial plan with a single, often uncomfortable exercise: figuring out what the client actually spends on. "Most people are more bothered about where to invest, what returns funds are giving, but it is all linked to how much you are spending in a month, and that will also decide how soon you can retire," she says.

She frequently encounters a revealing discrepancy: clients who estimate their monthly expenses as "somewhere between Rs 1 lakh and Rs 1.5 lakh." That Rs 50,000 variance, when tracked over a few months, often reveals real money that can be redirected. "Once we've done this exercise for a few months and reviewed the expense sheets, we usually find another Rs 10,000-Rs 20,000 that can be channelled into an SIP," he says. For clients wary of sharing banking data with third-party apps, Mondal suggests a simple alternative: track expenses manually in Excel or Google sheets. One list should cover fixed monthly costs like rent and groceries, while another captures annual expenses such as insurance premiums, school fees, birthdays, and festival shopping. Add up yearly costs, divide by 12, and save that amount monthly in a separate account or liquid fund.

Once spending data is recorded, AI tools can analyse this or bank statements to generate detailed spending reports, and insights into personal spending habits.

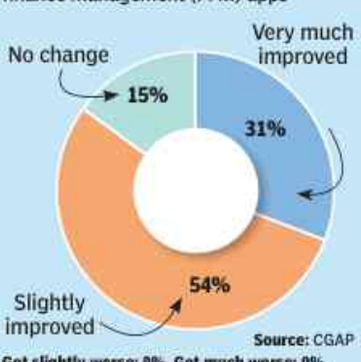
Anjana Jayalakshmi, 27
Senior content consultant, Chennai

Tracking expenses via Excel was exhausting, and left gaps

Impact of expense tracking:
50% jump in investments

How tracking expenses can help

85% of respondents in a CGAP survey reported improvements in their ability to manage their finances because of personal finance management (PFM) apps



Source: CGAP

Got slightly worse: 0%, Got much worse: 0%

CGAP survey, conducted between Aug and Sept 2025, included 274 screened PFM users

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ASK THE EXPERTS

My wife and I have had a floater health insurance policy for over four years. We declared diabetes as a pre-existing condition. Now we have high cholesterol and mild fatty liver. Will our insurance cover all these? — *Ram Sharma*

For the diabetes you declared at the time of purchase, health insurance policies apply a waiting period, now capped at 36 months, under IRDAI guidelines. Since you've held your policy for over four years with continuous renewals, this condition should now be covered as per your policy terms. For cholesterol and mild fatty liver developed later, these are not considered as pre-existing. Treatments related to such diseases are covered in the policy after the initial waiting period of 30 days. Health insurance rewards continuity. Customers who plan early, disclose honestly, and stay invested in their policy over the long term put themselves in the best position when they actually need to claim.

Sarbvir Singh
Joint Group CEO, PB Fintech

How to rebalance portfolios in the current environment—between equity, debt, gold, and global assets—to manage both risk and return? —*Kirti Singh*

A simple approach to rebalancing starts with defining the right asset allocation based on time-specific goals. In the current environment, marked by evolving geopolitics and market volatility, investors must be clear about the time horizon for each goal. For goals one to three years away, the strategy should be conservative, with 80-90% allocated to fixed income. If equity exposure is high for a near-term goal, it should be reduced to manage risk and lock in gains. For goals three to five years away, a more balanced approach is suitable. Portfolios skewed towards fixed income may be allocated 30-60% equity, depending on risk appetite. Long-term portfolios should have a higher equity allocation to drive growth and combat inflation. Gold and international investments should also be included. However, gold should be viewed as a diversification tool, not a return driver. A disciplined, diversified approach remains key to managing risk and returns.

Prableen Bajpai
Founder, FinFix Research and Analytics

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A thought for today

The use of solar energy has not been opened up because the oil industry does not own the sun

RALPH NADER

How To Go Electric...

Smaller EVs, battery-as-service model for cars. Govt campaign for e-cooking

India uses roughly 20mn tonnes of petroleum products in a month. Diesel, petrol, and LPG, in that order, make up about 75% of the total. What if we could replace some of it with electricity? This isn't wishful thinking. Consider petrol, for example. Last year, India sold 4.7mn cars, but only 0.2mn, or 4.3%, were electric. China sold 24mn cars in the same time – 53% electric. Point is not that we are behind China, but that scaling up to 10% or 20% within a year or two should be easy, thanks to our small base. And when we do that, our dependence on imported oil will start ebbing.

So, how do we begin? We know the main hurdles to faster EV adoption. One, EVs cost more than comparable ICE cars. Two, range anxiety. Three, lack of public charging infra, and difficulty of installing chargers at home, especially in apartments. For the market, this is a chicken-or-egg dilemma. Car buyers won't consider EVs until charging infra improves, but firms don't have an incentive to install more public chargers when existing capacity is underutilised. That's why govt has to draw some lines now. Instead of *hoping* that we get to 30% EV sales by 2030 – which we won't at this rate – it should lay down clear year-by-year sales mandates.

How will we make electric cars cheaper? Since 40% of an EV's price comes down to its battery, lighter cars with smaller batteries – therefore, less range – are the answer. A rapidly expanding public charging network can address range anxiety. Battery-as-a-service, or BaaS, model, in which you pay a monthly subscription for the battery, also lowers initial price. But while India taxes EVs at 5%, BaaS is taxed at 18%. This must change. Niti Aayog has recommended that we concentrate on specific regions, say, the metros, first. For network effects. And that's a good idea, because big cities need air quality improvements urgently.

Switching to electric cooking should be easier, because equipment costs are modest. And the energy savings are enormous, because induction plates and microwave ovens, for example, don't waste fuel heating ambient air and vessels. Nor do they cause indoor air pollution. But old habits can be hard to break, and if gas becomes cheap again, interest in electric cooking might wane. That's why govt should promote it through awareness campaigns, incentives and influencers. Not to forget, assured power supply.

...How To Make Biofuel

The shift to ethanol blends must include a shift from crop-based to agri residue-based options

GOI is pushing to ramp up its biofuels mission. Not a day too soon, yet not hard enough. Biofuels, yes, are a strategic national priority. The speed with which it will be adopted, by car makers and consumers, is also dependent on GOI's roping in private players to join the mission – farm to biorefinery to voluntary switch to E-20. But first, even the biofuels mission needs to shift its focus, from using food crops to produce ethanol – sugarcane, maize – to using crop residue. Fertilisers, in the main, chemical urea, for food crops are mostly imported. So, the first counter to biofuels is that depending on imported fertilisers just loops back to square one of instability.

The solution to that also is biofuels. Waste-based biofuels kill two birds with one, er, biorefinery – they produce fuel (ethanol) *and* can replace imported chemical fertilisers (urea) with organic ones at the farm level. If India were to meaningfully move away from food crops to using crop residue – think cane stubble and bagasse, rice and wheat straw, corn cobs – it will harvest a multiplier effect. Processing farm residue, nothing goes to waste. India generates more than 500mn tonnes of agricultural residue each year, that could, per some estimates, yield over 40bn litres of ethanol-equivalent. Biogas slurry – the waste after producing biogas – is excellent organic fertiliser. This, in turn, will help slash GOI's crippling fertiliser subsidy bill, estimated at a staggering ₹2.4L cr this year. And, free farmers from imported chemical fertilisers that kill soil nutrients. That starts a vicious cycle – farmers then need more fertilisers.

GOI must invest in waste-based biorefineries that produce fuel, fertiliser, animal feed, and energy, all from material that would otherwise be burned or dumped. But none of this is of use if the transition is forced on industry and people. Car makers must ensure vehicles are compatible with ethanol blends, consumers assured of cost savings, and private players shown advantages of initial investment – biorefineries to car makers.

Austerity & Posterity

Some cars, like some lives, are going nowhere. Others race on

Anil Abraham

Husbands should not be permitted to sit at home – it creates a crisis worse than war. Kamala was livid, because I had decided to follow the austerity measures suggested for all patriotic Indians. I was going to sit at home behind closed doors, until Hormuz Strait was open again. The bitter half just wanted her territory free from invasion by the male of the species, for a few hours every day.

To add to the confusion, our household help Hamsadhwani had also decided to work from home. As a consequence, *our* work, at *our* home, had been piling up for several days. Among the chaotic consequences of Iran war in our little home, I was recruited to moonlight as the maid, until things returned to normal.

After the laundry and the vessels were done, I started chopping up onions in an attempt to curry favour with the wife. She had decided that we were going to have one meal a day, in order to save fuel. "It's good for health and good for the country," she declared fervently, combining intermittent fasting and virtue signalling in one neat move. I nodded my head meekly. It was the least I could do, since her long-planned foreign vacation this summer and her gold shopping for a family wedding, had both been cancelled unceremoniously. As my weight and the rupee value to the dollar had both hit 95 recently, it did make sense to undertake these austerity measures. After all, CMs were cycling to work, autorickshaw drivers were walking with you to your destination, and policemen were working from home – because traffic and crime were both waiting for the war to finish.

I tried calling Plumber Padmanabha because our kitchen sink was leaking like the NEET exam papers. He recommended the ostrich approach, where if you pretend it's not leaking, the problem will go away. He further suggested that I tap into my latent talent to handle leaks with equanimity, just like NTA does. Going even further, I made up my mind to be like the Monk Who Sold His Maruti – since the car, like my life, was not going anywhere. Alongside, we also doomscrolled social media, by turns watching doomsday prophets predict disaster, and divas in designer outfits and heritage jewellery walk the ramp at Met Gala and Cannes. Austerity could be postponed there – for posterity's sake.

GCCs: India's Golden Egg

But Delhi policy wonks just don't get it. These centres today are drivers of services exports & GDP growth. Now, India needs a policy to make them catalyse our educational, research, and deep-tech ecosystem

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In the current economic dullness, there's a remarkably vibrant sector that Delhi policy wonks often miss because its best manifestations are in Bengaluru, Hyderabad, and Pune, and because our export categorisation masks it. It's global capability centres (GCCs), the tech and operations centres of MNCs, of which there are some 2,400 in India today employing over 3.5mn people. And every week, one or more is being established in India.

Some months ago, a govt adviser told me GCCs are simply benefitting from India's talent, and there's little that India gets from them. More recently, a Delhi-based commentator on this page had the line: "India has the talent, it slaves away in global capability centres, constituting a brain drain at home."

Slaves! If GCC employees are slaving away, the rest of us must be in some unspeakable hell.

GCC employees are the best compensated folks in India. GCC HR practices eclipse anything India Inc offers – Goldman Sachs' 6-month-long paternity leave is an example. Work is just five days a week, of which two are typically from home. Their campuses are world-class. Office designs are often stunning, like Cisco's Antoni Gaudi-inspired floor. In some, food is on the house – breakfast to dinner.

Why such pampering? Companies around the world have to digitally transform, which requires hundreds, often thousands, of techies, and no other country offers the quantity and quality of techies India does. The likes of Infosys long ago created beautiful campuses to attract the young. When GCCs started coming in, they needed to offer more, since they were competing for the same talent.

But increasingly, there's another reason. The India offices are involved in the most cutting-edge work happening anywhere in their global operations, and innovation requires creating inspiring, collaborative spaces, and attracting the very best talent. In Walmart, they have dramatically improved the cataloguing of its 1.2bn products, and have helped build an internal AI super-agent that has greatly simplified life for its developers. In Lowe's, they conceptualised and built what is today one of the fastest growing retail ad networks in US.

In Goldman Sachs, they led the work on a low-latency trading platform that hosts a suite of trading strategies to help clients achieve their trading objectives, perform historical analyses, and build quantitative models with real-time market information and trade execution. In JPMorgan, they are a core part of building the payment infra, as also the data work across all its businesses, including AI and advanced analytics work.

For GE, 60-70% of the team that has designed its latest GE9X engine – which will go into Boeing's latest generation aircraft, the 777X – sit in the India centre. When Ducati races in MotoGPs, it uses fuel developed using computationally-designed molecules at Shell's centre in India.

Image: AI

SAP's CTO recently told us their India centre is helping the software giant rethink its entire technology stack, to make it AI-native, and noted that its first wave of AI agents was being developed in India. For Nvidia, AMD, Intel, Microsoft, and Google, the India centres are absolutely central. And here's a stunner: a global luxury carmaker told us if their global headquarters were to shut down today, their India centre can keep the operations going.

Many global leaders now sit out of GCCs. Newer entrants, like Chevron and hedge fund Millennium, are pulling out all stops. When Chevron launched its GCC 15 months ago, it represented the 147-year-old company's largest investment by far in technology capacity and capability building outside North America.

What China did for the world in manufacturing, India's doing for the world in digital transformation, a market estimated between $1tn and $2.6tn, and growing at a CAGR of over 20%. For years, GCC revenue estimates focused on the higher-end part of their tech work. But GCCs also do IT, and a myriad of business processes.

Many MNCs centralise in these GCCs their finance, HR, legal, procurement, supply chain management, marketing, and customer service. In finance, they today handle high-value operations like trade settlements, risk management, regulatory reporting, treasury management, and financial planning & analysis.

Two years ago, consultancy Wizmatic put together a more comprehensive estimate of GCC exports using data from Registrar of Companies. And came up with an export figure of $150bn for 2024-25 – about 4.5% of India's GDP. The export growth rate for the previous five years ranged between an astounding 11% and 24%. It resolved several paradoxes. When growth of companies like TCS, Infosys, Wipro has slumped, how are India's services exports growing so dramatically as to equal merchandise exports today – from 59% of merchandise exports in 2021-22 to 96% in 2025-26? Or why are economic surveys of states like Karnataka reporting double-digit software & services exports?

GCCs have become the engine of growth of India's tech sector, and India's exports. And of India too, if we also consider they account for over 40% of grade A office space leasing in India. And they are drivers of consumption, given the high levels of compensation of the 4mn employees.

All of this has happened without govt doing much – barring the historical legacy of building top-class engineering institutions. The lesson for Delhi policymakers is, this is a phenomenal opportunity to build a policy around GCCs, focusing on attracting more, and using them to transform other core areas.

Given that their parent companies are the world's biggest R&D spenders, GCCs can help with curricula and research in Indian academic institutions – and they are not doing enough. GCCs need to build robust startup incubation programmes.

Plus, GCCs also need to be encouraged to move into smaller towns. And GCC employees need to be incentivised to establish startups. We need a carrot and stick policy. Yes, sticks too. Because GCCs need India, as much as India needs them.

It's Not What's Hot, It's What's Fact & What's Not

When technology can fabricate faces, voices, entire events, the state must ensure that authenticity remains visible & deception traceable – this is the core rationale of India's 2026 amendments to IT Rules

Mahesh Jethmalani

In the shadow of algorithms that can now fabricate faces, voices, and entire events with chilling precision, humanity confronts a fundamental rupture, as the very fabric of reality has now become editable. No longer confined to science fiction, synthetic media, deepfakes, voice clones, AI-generated spectacles, this project now weaponises trust itself, eroding the foundations of personal dignity, public discourse, and democratic consent.

Given the threats posed by SGIs (synthetically generated info), the 2026 amendments to the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021, represent a decisive, unflinching assertion of state responsibility in the age of synthetic truth: where deception can be manufactured at scale, authenticity must be enforced by proactive design.

Consider the schoolteacher whose fabricated deepfake video, crafted from ordinary public photos, spreads like wildfire across messaging platforms and local networks. In hours, years of earned reputation collapse into suspicion, professional standing evaporates, and psychological trauma takes root. Far darker still are the shadows cast upon children: dark-web networks exploit the same tech to manufacture abuse material.

These are not isolated tragedies, but harbingers of a new reality in which SGI, precisely as defined by the amended Rules and clarified in the accompanying FAQs, has evolved from tech marvel to societal threat. Its unchecked misuse delivers immediate, often permanent damage to individuals and institutions alike. Against this existential backdrop, the 2026 amendments stand as a bold, integrated regulatory architecture. They do not merely react to deepfakes, voice cloning, and AI-generated visual media, but systematically define, classify, and contain them.

- Rule 2(1)(wa) delivers a surgically precise definition of SGI: any audio, visual, or audiovisual content artificially created or altered to appear indistinguishable from reality. The FAQs leave no ambiguity: routine edits, accessibility tools, and legitimate AI assistance remain untouched, provided they do not distort underlying truth. This is regulation with clarity and restraint. It targets malice, not innovation.
- At the heart of the framework lies Rule 3(3), imposing a rigorous due-diligence obligation on intermediaries. Platforms must deploy reasonable and appropriate technical measures, including automated detection tools to block unlawful SGI before it proliferates. The Rules explicitly prohibit the most corrosive categories: non-consensual intimate imagery, child sexual abuse material, synthetic false documents, content enabling explosives or weapons, and deceptive impersonations of persons or events.
- Yet, the framework is equally assertive in

Image: AI

safeguarding permissible synthetic content, ensuring that lawful expression is not collateral damage. It's transparency that's elevated to a non-negotiable principle.

Rule 3(3)(a)(ii) mandates clear, continuous labelling of SGI, along with embedded metadata and provenance identifiers, creating dual layers of accountability, visible to users and traceable by authorities. Rule 3(3)(b) forbids any tampering with these safeguards, closing the escape hatch for concealment. This lifecycle approach – from creation to dissemination to takedown – transforms intermediaries from passive conduits into active guardians of digital integrity.

- Speedy redressal of the mischief is the new standard of justice. Recognising that viral synthetic harm cannot be undone once unleashed, the Rules compress response timelines with sincere urgency. Under Rule 3(1)(d), intermediaries must remove unlawful SGI within three hours of receiving actual knowledge, via court order or reasoned govt intimation, slashing the previous 36-hour window. Grievance redressal under Rule 3(2) is similarly tightened: seven days standard, collapsing to 36 or even two hours for cases involving impersonation, nudity, or morphed imagery.
- Significant Social Media Intermediaries face even stricter ex-ante obligations under Rule 4(1A), requiring user declarations, verification technology, and mandatory prominent labelling at the point of upload. Failure constitutes a breach of due diligence, with direct liability consequences.
- Crucially, the amendments fortify rather than undermine platform protections. Explicit clarification ensures that proactive removal or disabling of unlawful SGI, whether manual or automated, preserves safe harbour immunity under Section 79 of the IT Act. Platforms are thus empowered to act decisively without fear.

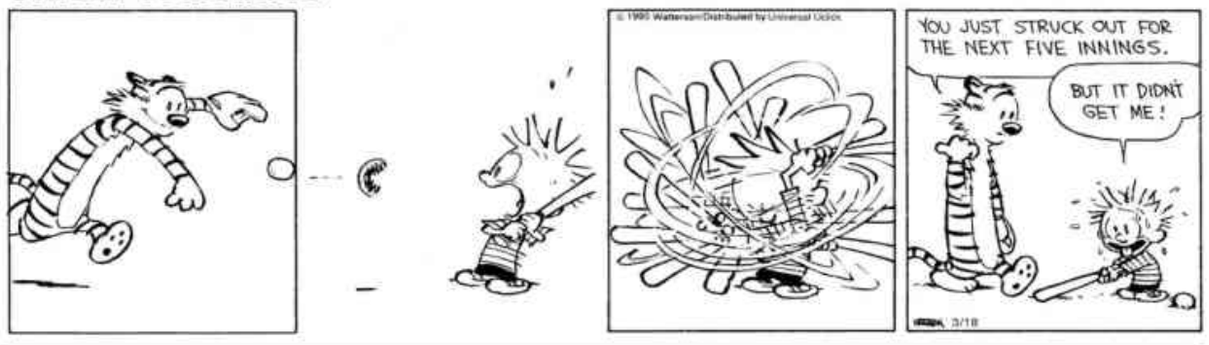
While EU's AI Act and scattered US state laws offer fragmented, sector-specific responses, India has forged a comprehensive, lifecycle-based model that integrates intermediaries as essential partners in enforcement. This is regulation that respects tech progress, but refuses to surrender societal cohesion to it.

Challenges remain, as with any ambitious framework. There are real concerns over free speech, and these demand vigilant judicial oversight. But what the Supreme Court's jurisprudence, from Shreya Singhal onward, has consistently affirmed is that procedural safeguards can coexist with decisive state action against grave harms. The Rules meet this test by prioritising intent, proportionality, and the urgent reality of malicious synthetic media.

The 2026 amendments do more than update legislation. They articulate a foundational dharma for the digital age: when technology can fabricate reality, the state must ensure authenticity remains visible, deception remains traceable, and truth retains its rightful sovereignty. India has drawn a clear line and other nations would do well to take note.

The writer is Senior Advocate, Supreme Court

Calvin & Hobbes



Sacred*space*

Love isn't something natural. Rather it requires discipline, concentration, patience, faith, and the overcoming of narcissism. It isn't a feeling; it is a practice.

Eric Fromm

Love In Six Shades Of Grey And A Hint Of White

Anmol Saxena

The concept of 'God' is deeply complex, spanning religion, philosophy, psychology, and language. Different traditions interpret it differently, making a single definition impossible. A *grihast sant*, Shyam Lal Saxena (Babuji Maharaj, Ghaziabad), once said, *"Prem hi puja hai, prem hi Ishwar hai"* – love is worship, love is God. If love is divine, then understanding love becomes essential for understanding God.

Yet, what we call love is rarely pure. It is often a shifting blend of need, fear, tenderness, and awareness. Few words are used as frequently, or examined as little, as 'love'. It explains devotion and jealousy, sacrifice and possession, longing and loyalty. Popular culture portrays it as pure, transformative, and eternal.

But lived experience tells a different story. In everyday life, love often appears as a web of emotional needs. Control disguises itself as concern, dependency masquerades as intimacy, and fear of abandonment presents itself as care. Love is rarely untouched by ego or insecurity; it is layered, conflicted, and morally ambiguous. It is, therefore, more accurate to see love not as a single emotion, but as a spectrum, a movement through different states of consciousness. Kabir captures this paradox in *"Prem gali ati saankari"*, suggesting that the lane of love is so narrow that even the self cannot pass through it. True love may require dissolving the ego. The *Brihadaranyaka Upanishad* adds another unsettling idea: we do not love others purely for their sake, but for the self-experience we find in them. Love, then, is never entirely innocent. It is entangled with desire, identity, and projection.

THE SPEAKING TREE

Seen this way, love is grey, unfolding in shades. The first shade is possession. At its most instinctive level, love seeks ownership. 'You are mine' may sound like devotion, but beneath it often lies fear of loss, replacement, or inadequacy.

The second shade is desire, the most celebrated form of love. Desire brings intensity, excitement, and a heightened sense of life. It fuels poetry and obsession. But it is selective. It edits reality, projecting an imagined version onto the other person.

The third shade is dependency, often mistaken for depth. Modern romance glorifies incompleteness: 'I need you', 'You complete me'. The beloved becomes essential for psychological stability. This is not healthy intimacy, but emotional survival wrapped in romantic language.

The fourth shade is sacrifice, where love appears to mature. People compromise, adjust, and give more. At its best, this reflects ethical care. But even sacrifice has its ego. One may take pride in being the one who suffers more or forgives more.

The fifth shade is awareness, perhaps the rarest. Here, love sheds its need for control. One no longer tries to possess, fix, or seek constant reassurance. Instead, one begins to see the other as they are, separate, complex, and not an extension of oneself.

The sixth and final shade is liberation. At this stage, love is no longer transactional. It does not depend on possession, reciprocity, or even relationship in the conventional sense. There is *no* fear of loss or need for validation. What remains is openness, a state of being. Mystics spoke of this love that resembles freedom. This is *prem* as *Ishwar*.

TIMES BUSINESS

THE TIMES OF INDIA, BENGALURU | TUESDAY, MAY 19, 2026

Over the past decade, India's real estate sector has emerged as a key enabler of urbanisation, infrastructure development and capital formation. Its macroeconomic significance is underscored by its contribution of nearly 7.3% to our GDP as of early 2026 and its position as the country's second-largest employment generator

$906bn projected value of new homes by 2034

41mn sqft of new retail developments expected to be operational by 2028

$15.8bn Unlocked through asset monetisation via InvITs and REITs

$10.5bn Allocated to Urban Challenge Fund in union budget FY26

$4.3bn of institutional investment & growing REIT adoption enhancing transparency and liquidity across commercial & residential real estate

InvITs: Infrastructure Investment Trusts, REIT: Real Estate Investment Trust Source: KPMG & FICCI

~590mn people (39% of the population) are expected to live in urban areas by 2036

6x increase in govt capex to a budgeted $129bn in FY27 is strengthening the infrastructure backbone

Link insurer co CEO salaries to customer outcomes: Irdai

'Reduce Focus On Profits, Improve Transparency, Curb Misselling'

Mayur.Shetty
@timesofindia.com

'TOP-HEAVY ORG STRUCTURES A CONCERN'

- CEO pay should be tied to metrics such as claim speed, grievance redressal, product disclosure transparency, and overall experience
- Focus must shift from profit & revenue to long-term, policyholder-centric outcomes
- Clawbacks and pay cuts to apply if there is a spike in customer complaints, or if mis-selling or regulatory breaches occur
- Improved transparency through disclosures of CEO, key managerial personnel (KMP) pay and its link to performance

Mumbai: The insurance regulator has sought to link insurance company CEO salaries to customer outcomes, introduce clawbacks and increase transparency. This follows a study by the regulator which showed that CEO salaries were all over the place with key management at times accounting for a big chunk of the wage cost. The regulator also saw the need to reduce the focus on profits and address misselling.

In a discussion paper circulated among CEOs, the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India said there is a need "to move beyond short-term financial performance and focus on sustainable, policyholder-centric outcomes" as existing compensation structures have been "largely tied to revenue, profit, and shareholder returns" and have "failed to capture the long-term value created through positive customer outcomes".

The regulator has proposed an industry-wide framework that would tie executive pay to a mix of customer, shareholder and regulatory metrics, with customer-related parameters carrying the highest weight. These include measures such as claim settlement timelines, grievance redressal, transparency in product disclosures and overall customer experience. The move is aimed at ensuring that "customer satisfaction, trust, and loyalty" become central to how top management performance is evaluated.

The paper also proposes explicit penalties in compensation structures through malus and clawback provisions in cases where insurers fall short on conduct. Pay could be adjusted downward if "customer complaints spike", "regulatory breaches occur", or "mis-selling or unethical practices are identified", signalling a sharper regulatory focus on accountability at the top.

The discussion ties in with the regulators move to curb expenses in selling insurance through commissions and distribution costs to make insurance more affordable. Also there is a wide variation in salaries. In the case of leading life insurers, the standard deviation in CEO pay is as high as Rs 7.9 crore, while for non-life insurers it rises to Rs 11.43 crore, reflecting what the regulator sees as an uneven and weakly-anchored compensation structure.

Concerns have also been raised about the "top heavy structure" of insurers. In some cases, management remuneration accounts for as much as 14% of the total salary outgo. The regulator argues that better alignment of pay with customer outcomes could help address these structural issues by improving trust in insurance products and driving wider adoption.

'Bar on board meets applies only to SRTT'

Reprieve For Tata Trusts: Maharashtra Charity Commissioner Clarifies Order Issued Last Week

Reeba.Zachariah
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HOW THE STORY HAS PLAYED OUT

April 18, 2026 | Advocate Katyayani Agrawal files complaint with charity commissioner alleging Sir Ratan Tata Trust is violating the amended Maharashtra Public Trusts Act

April 28 | SRTT trustee and vice chairman Venu Srinivasan files a similar complaint with the commissioner

May 13 | Bombay high court permits Suresh Tulsiram Patilkhede to withdraw his petition against SRTT, while recording complaints made to the commissioner; the commissioner orders an inquiry

May 15 | Commissioner directs Tata Trusts to defer board meetings until the inquiry report is submitted

May 18 | Trusts seeks clarification; Commissioner states the directions apply only to SRTT

Mumbai: The Maharashtra charity commissioner on Monday clarified that its order freezing board meetings applies only to Sir Ratan Tata Trust and not to other Tata trusts, providing significant relief to the Noel Tata-headed philanthropic group.

The clarification paves the way for the remaining Trusts to resume normal functioning, including holding board meetings and disbursing funds to social projects. The original order was seen as a sweeping blanket directive against the dozen-odd Trusts.

Following the commissioner's original order, the Sir Dorabji Tata Trust (SDTT), Sir Ratan Tata Trust (SRTT) and Tata Education and Development Trust had all cancelled their scheduled board meetings.

On Monday, Tata Trusts wrote to the commissioner seeking clarification on the original order. Commissioner Amogh Kaloti replied that the May 15 directions were issued with specific reference to complaints by advocate Katyayani Agrawal and trustee Venu Srinivasan, both of which referred only to SRTT. "Due to inadvertence, the term 'Tata Trusts' was used instead of the specific name, 'Sir Ratan Tata Trust,'" he said, clarifying that the directions "apply solely to Sir Ratan Tata Trust, and not to any other trust or trusts that may come under the umbrella of 'Tata Trusts'."

The complaints alleged that perpetual trustees account for 50% of SRTT's board, double the 25% cap set by Sept 2025 amendments to the Maharashtra Public Trusts Act. Agrawal had also argued that decisions taken by SRTT after the law was amended were liable to be treated as invalid. The Trusts contest the perpetual trustee issue, saying the amendments apply prospectively and do not affect appointments made before September 1, 2025.

Lawyers said that while this position had merit, SRTT's board composition had become non-compliant since Sept 2025 and the defect needed to be rectified. Corporate lawyer Swapnil Kothari said the Sept amendment is prospective in nature but that does not mean board decisions taken after it came into force are insulated.

Another lawyer said that even with the commissioner's clarification, the review of nominee directors on Tata Sons board was likely to remain in abeyance until the commissioner's inquiry on SRTT was complete. The same agenda item was unlikely to be taken up at the SDTT board meeting either, he noted, given that Srinivasan serves as a nominee director of both SRTT and SDTT on the Tata Sons board. With the two Trusts together holding a controlling stake in Tata Sons, any decision on nominee representation is inherently interconnected, he added.

The freeze on SRTT's board meetings remains in place until the commissioner completes his inquiry and submits a report.

IndianOil profit soars 2.8 times in 2025-26

New Delhi: Indian Oil Corporation Monday said that its net profit soared 2.8 times to Rs 36,802 crore during the last financial year, compared with Rs 12,962 crore a year ago, partly driven by inventory gains. During the Jan-March quarter, IndiaOil's net profit jumped over 1.5 times to Rs 11,378 crore, while revenue from operations was barely 7% higher at over Rs 2.3 lakh crore. Petroleum sales were higher by 5% to 89 million metric tonnes. TNN

PRO FX Tech FY26 revenue rises 37%

Bengaluru: Audio-visual solutions company PRO FX Tech reported a 37% increase in revenue to Rs 177 crore in FY26 driven by demand for premium audio products. Net profit rose 24% to Rs 15 crore. "FY26 was a year of consolidation of brands, partnerships and capabilities, which significantly strengthened our foundation across both retail and B2B segments and positioned the company for its next phase of scalable growth," said **Manmohan Ganesh**, MD of PRO FX Tech. TNN

Puravankara's Q4 revenue up 173%

Bengaluru: Real estate developer Puravankara's revenue rose 173% year-on-year to Rs 1,541 crore in the March quarter, from Rs 564 crore a year earlier. It posted a net profit of Rs 110 crore for the quarter. For FY26, total income increased 84% to Rs 3,846 crore from Rs 2,093 crore a year earlier. The company reported a profit of Rs 57 crore, against a loss of Rs 183 crore in FY25. TNN

RBI elevates Gunveer Singh as Exec Director

Mumbai: RBI on Monday promoted Gunveer Singh as executive director (ED), the central bank said in a statement. Singh was earlier serving as chief general manager-in-charge of Department of Payment and Settlement Systems of RBI. PTI

Clarification

The headline in Monday's edition incorrectly referred to a stake sale in Bharti AXA. Prudential plc has agreed to acquire a 75% stake in Bharti Life Insurance Company.

Cognizant ups 2026 share buyback target by $1bn

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

> Our plan to increase the amount of share repurchases reflects our strong conviction in the long-term opportunity AI creates and our critical role in it as an AI builder
>
> RAVI KUMAR S | CEO, COGNIZANT

Bengaluru: Cognizant has said its board approved a $2 billion increase to its existing share repurchase programme and raised its 2026 share buyback target to $2 billion, up from the earlier target of $1 billion. The additional $1 billion in buybacks is expected to be completed during the Sept quarter of 2026.

The announcement pushed Cognizant's stock up 6% in early Nasdaq trading. However, the shares have remained under pressure over a longer period, with the stock down nearly 39% over the past year. **TOI** reported on Monday that Cognizant's market capitalisation stood at about $22.3 billion as of Friday, down 22% over the past month and 44% over the past year, bringing it close to the lower end of its FY26 revenue guidance range of $22.1 billion to $22.6 billion.

"Our plan to increase the amount of share repurchases reflects our strong conviction in the long-term opportunity AI creates and our critical role in it as an AI builder," CEO Ravi Kumar S said. "We believe a fundamental shift in IT services is underway, one that strengthens Cognizant's position for future growth. We believe our current share price significantly undervalues those prospects. I am confident that our early investments will position us to emerge as a leader in AI-led enterprise transformation in the years ahead."

Its CFO Jatin Dalal said the company was using its strong balance sheet and cash position to enhance shareholder returns while continuing to invest in growth opportunities. "A strong balance sheet and robust free cash flow give us the flexibility to opportunistically accelerate the return of capital to shareholders while we continue to invest for growth, including through strategic M&A," he said.

Infy Q4 variable pay drops to 70%, down from 85% in Q3

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: Infosys has rolled out an average variable payout of 70% at the organization level for the March quarter of FY26, according to an internal communication reviewed by TOI. The company has awarded bonuses ranging from 63% to 82%, depending on employee grades and performance ratings.

"Performance bonus recommendation has been completed," the company said in its internal communication to employees. The payout marks a decline from the previous quarter, when the company had rolled out an average variable pay of 85%. For pay grade 4, which includes technology analysts, business analysts and associate consultants, employees with outstanding ratings received a bonus payout of 82%, while those at the lower end received 67%.

For pay grade 5 employees, including technology leads and senior consultants, top performers received 79%, while lower-rated employees were awarded 65%. For pay grade 6, comprising delivery managers and senior delivery managers, variable pay ranged between 63% and 77%.

Adani Group settles all cases in US, pays $275mn

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: The legal cases that the Adani Group and its various top officials, including Gautam Adani, the group's chairman, were facing in the US ended on Monday.

Adani Enterprises (AEL), the flagship of the Ahmedabad-based Adani Group has paid $275 million (about Rs 2,650 crore at Monday's exchange rate) to settle a case of apparent violation of Iran-related sanctions by the US, a release from the Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) under the US Treasury Department said. In a separate case, the US Department of Justice dropped criminal charges against Gautam Adani and seven other people, including his nephew Sagar Adani, and the court accepted the move.

Last week, the US markets regulator Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) had also announced its settlement with the group against a payment of $18 million. The settlements in all these came after the Adani group hired a new legal team led by Robert J Giuffra Jr, one of the US President Donald Trump's personal lawyers, a NYT report said last week. In its release OFAC said that from Nov 2023 to June 2025, AEL had purchased shipments of liquified petroleum gas (LPG) from a Dubai-based trader purporting to supply Omani and Iraqi gas.

> **The case related to an apparent violation of Iran-related sanctions by the US**

During that time, AEL caused US financial institutions to process 32 dollar-denominated payments aggregating about $192 million for the shipments, the release said. "The settlement amount reflects OFAC's determination that AEL's apparent violations were egregious and not voluntarily self-disclosed and further reflects AEL's remedial measures following discovery of the conduct and the cooperation AEL provided for OFAC's investigation."

Liberty Mutual hikes stake in Indian arm

Mumbai: Boston headquartered Liberty Mutual Insurance has increased its stake in its Indian venture Liberty General Insurance to 74% as of May 18, after raising its shareholding from 49% to 55.4% in Sept 2025. The Indian insurance firm had started as a joint venture between Liberty and the Videocon Group. Videocon exited the joint venture in March 2018. It sold its entire 51.3% stake. TNN

Sensex edges up as foreign funds buy aggressively

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: Foreign fund buying helped sensex settle marginally higher on Monday, despite crude oil prices continuing the recent uptrend and rupee hitting a new record low against the dollar. Some short covering during the closing hours of the day's session also helped the up move on Dalal Street, market players said.

With fresh tensions brewing between the US and Iran, Brent crude rallied to above $111/barrel level. This in turn raised chances of higher inflation and higher interest rates in India since crude is the biggest import item for the country. Combined with it, rupee also weakened to near the 96.5-per-dollar level in early trades.

Weighed by these factors, sensex opened the week's trading about 400 points down, slid in early trades to lose more than 1,000 points from Friday's close, but a smart recovery started soon after. At close the index was at 75,315 points, up 77 points.

Foreign funds were aggressive buyers on Monday with a net inflow of Rs 2,814 crore, BSE data showed. Domestic funds were also buyers during the day, with the net inflow at Rs 2,682 crore. In Monday's session, buying, however, was mostly concentrated in large cap stocks while mid and small-cap stocks witnessed selling. As a result, BSE's mid-cap index closed 0.2% lower while the small-cap index closed 1.5% down.

> **Foreign funds net bought shares worth Rs 2,814 crore. Domestic funds too chipped in with a net inflow of Rs 2,682 crore**

The day's session also left investors poorer by a little over Rs 2 lakh crore with BSE's market capitalisation now at Rs 458.4 lakh crore.

Push mfg to cut imports: Goyal tells industry

New Delhi: Commerce and industry minister Piyush Goyal on Monday asked the industry to identify goods that can be manufactured in India to help reduce import dependence of those products. He also suggested increasing exports and buy goods manufactured in India, rather than importing them.

Addressing domestic traders, he said, "You should keep an eye on what goods are being imported, you will see opportunities in that too, what things can be manufactured in India." Goyal urged stakeholders to study import trends through the commerce ministry's trade portal and identify opportunities for domestic manufacturing and import substitution.

The minister said despite global economic uncertainties, triggered by Russia-Ukraine and West Asia crisis, India's exports rose about 5% to $863.1 billion in 2025-26. "This year's target is $1 trillion. This is a big target. We have to work together for this," he said. PTI

Indian markets resilient to West Asia shocks: Sebi chief

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Bhubaneswar: Sebi chairman **Tuhin Kanta Pandey** on Monday said volatility triggered by the ongoing West Asia crisis remains within manageable limits for Indian markets, which he described as "resilient".

"The sooner the crisis is resolved, the better for the rest of the world. However, I can say that Indian markets have remained quite resilient. Volatility has increased but it is not beyond what markets can handle," Pandey told media persons, adding that govt is taking steps to cushion spillover effects.

Pandey was in the city for an investor awareness programme organised by the Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI). He also announced that Sebi will soon open an office in Bhubaneswar.

He said resilient markets are able to absorb different types of shocks and return to their normal trajectory. "Ups and downs are natural, especially as global markets are interconnected. Developments in one part of the world impact others."

On comparisons between the West Asia conflict and the Covid-19 pandemic, Pandey said it would not be right to make any conjecture on that. "The impact depends on duration of the crisis. For now, markets have stayed resilient, with some correction."

Highlighting investor behaviour, he said domestic investors have remained confident and continued disciplined investments even as there were some FPI outflows from Sept 2024. Giving example of Odisha, he said ratio of systematic investment plans by Odisha investors is higher compared to national average, which means people in a disciplined manner have continued investing in time of corrections. On emerging risks, Pandey said Sebi is working on guidelines for AI-driven trading.

India creates 1bn AI images in weeks, says Sam Altman

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: India has emerged as one of the fastest-growing markets for AI-generated visuals, with users creating more than one billion images using ChatGPT Images 2.0 within weeks of its launch, according to OpenAI chief executive **Sam Altman**. Sharing the milestone on X, Altman wrote that it was "awesome to see" the scale at which Indian users were adopting the tool.

The feature, introduced by OpenAI in April, offers sharper image quality, stronger prompt-following capabilities and improved multilingual text rendering, including for Indian languages. One of the biggest trends involves "Mini Me" creations, where small animated versions of users are inserted into real-life photographs. Fashion-inspired studio portraits resembling magazine covers have also become widely popular, alongside universal lighting prompts that transform ordinary photographs into dramatic studio-style portraits while preserving facial expressions and backgrounds.

Users are also generating polished headshot-profile images for LinkedIn and creator accounts, anime-inspired avatars, retro manga panels, underwater portraits and travel-themed scrapbook collages featuring postcards, souvenirs and layered visual effects.

Finserv push: TVS Venu to acquire stake in Jana SFB

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Chennai: Sudarshan Venu, MD of TVS Motor Company and a key member of the Venu Srinivasan family faction within the broader TVS Group, is stepping up the group's financial services expansion.

In its latest move, TVS Venu, an investment vehicle of the family, has agreed to acquire a minority stake in Jana Small Finance Bank (Jana SFB) for Rs 193 crore. The investment, through a mix of primary warrants and secondary share purchases, will give TVS Venu a stake of up to 9.9% on a fully diluted basis, with TVS Motor directly holding 4.9%, subject to regulatory approvals.

Alongside spearheading TVS Motor's expansion across segments — including efforts to revive British motorcycle marque Norton Motorcycles — Sudarshan Venu has also accelerated the group's push to build a broader financial platform focused on vehicle lending and consumer credit, among other areas. Last year, the group completed the acquisition of Home Credit India for Rs 554 crore and recently signed definitive agreements to acquire a 100% stake in PGIM India Asset Management.

A significant part of the group's financial ambitions already rests on TVS Credit Services, the captive financing arm of TVS Motor. TVS Credit reported a record pretax profit of Rs 1,248 crore in FY26, while its loan book expanded to Rs 30,631 crore as of March 2026, up from Rs 26,647 crore a year earlier. According to Icra, TVS Credit finances nearly one-fifth of TVS Motor's two-wheeler sales by volume and plays a key role in rural markets, where financing penetration remains critical to vehicle purchases. Following the completion of the Home Credit India deal last year, Venu had indicated that the acquisition would move the group closer to its ambition of building a Rs 50,000-crore lending book over the next three years. Jana SFB has built a sizeable presence in retail and MSME banking, supported by an expanding secured lending franchise and a nationwide distribution network.

Why it's bloom time again for botanical art

The practice of drawing plants in minute, scientific detail is resurging in India, and a growing breed of enthusiasts, on the cusp of art and science, are helping document our flora, deepen observation and support conservation efforts, writes Joeanna Fernandes

'Paper Gardens', an ongoing exhibition of botanical art at the Museum of Art & Photography, Bengaluru

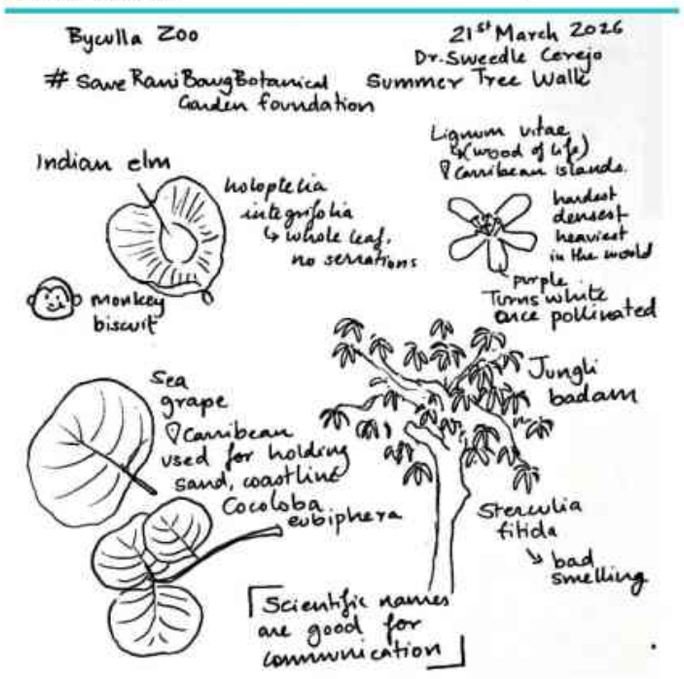
ROOTS, STALKS & LEAVES: An illustration from the book 'Pillars of Life', which documents 30 tree species of the Anamalai Hills in the Western Ghats

MUGHAL GARDENS TO BRIT BOTANISTS

- Botanical art in India has its roots in 17th-century Mughal ateliers of Shah Jahan and in European florilegia — illustrated plant anthologies commissioned by royal patrons
- The art form came into its own in colonial India, between the late 18th and 19th centuries, when Indian artists, often uncredited, produced a substantial body of work for East India Company's botanists

Photos: Sanjay Hadkar

DRAWING FROM LIFE: Participants of a nature-journalling walk in Mumbai in March; (below) a page of preliminary sketches



That principle was put into practice in March, when 19 adults and children joined an illustrator and a botanist on a nature-journalling tree walk in Mumbai. As one explained a specimen's morphology, cultural history and ecological context, the other demonstrated how to capture it on paper.

"Knowing what you're looking at — the petals, the calyx — helps you see the flower clearly," says artist Sefi George, who encourages beginners to render their subjects diagrammatically and compare specimens to observe subtle differences.

"The more details you observe, the better you'll remember the plant and understand the species," says her botanist collaborator Sweedle Cerejo-Shivkar.

Workshops train participants to deepen their gaze — to observe plants not with the abstract eye of an impressionist, but through the penetrating lens of a botanist.

In Relli Valley, Kalimpong, the Himalayan Trust for Natural History Art (HTNHA) has been training rural children to become citizen-ecologists and conservationists through natural history art.

"By illustrating specific pollinators, complex underground mycelium networks, and the honest imperfections of plants suffering from heat stress or habitat loss, these young artists provide a biological record more comprehensive than a photograph," says Hemlata Pradhan, HTNHA's founder.

In 2000, Pradhan's paintings of Himalayan wild orchids fetched her the Royal Horticultural Society's gold medal, a first for an Indian botanical artist. Three years later, troubled by environmental destruction caused by hydel projects, she founded HTNHA to "bridge the gap between canvas and forest". In 2011, she established a school of natural history art, where children learn to document the natural world.

"The ability to synthesise an entire life cycle — from nascent bud to decaying seed pod — into a single image provides an invaluable scientific clarity that serves as an emotional bridge between abstract statistics and human empathy," she says. "This artistic evolution acts as a cure for botanical illiteracy."

Globally, Pradhan points out, botanical research centres and conservation groups use commissioned art to turn extinction data into relatable stories that help the public "see" overlooked plants.

Sometimes, the art itself contributes to scientific discovery.

In 2020, Paresh Churi, an IBAS founder, recorded a range extension for *Crotalaria suffruticosa* after observing the IUCN red-listed leguminous plant in Karjat, 320km northwest of its previously recorded range in Kolhapur, Maharashtra. His work has been exhibited at the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh and has featured in three editions of the Margaret Flockton Award exhibition.

Churi often collaborates with botanists to illustrate their discoveries for journals. But he also shares his work on social media and at international exhibitions. "When a scientist or botanist discovers a new species, it remains confined to scientific circles. Art, however, is accessible to more people," he says.

Churi's illustrations, unconventionally, often incorporate elements that hint at a larger ecological story. His pen-and-ink of the newly described species *Lepidagathis mahakassape* (Acanthaceae) from the Kas Plateau included a small inset of transmission lines and windmills "to convey that even habitats intersected by infrastructure can support new species." The work is now part of the permanent collection at the Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation, a research division of Carnegie Mellon University.

Art For Ecology

Botanical art registers both ecological gains and losses, preserving species in ink even when they've vanished from the soil. For botanists and ecologists, these afterimages can hold clues to how climate change and urbanisation have reshaped ecosystems and altered species distribution. They can also offer insights for conserving vulnerable species.

According to the global report State of the World's Plants and Fungi 2023, roughly 15% of the world's plant species remain scientifically unidentified, undescribed and unmapped. Up to 77% of these undescribed species may be at risk of extinction. When practised scientifically, botanical art can supplement scientific research as a form of citizen science.

Many believe that singling out and celebrating a species in art can also help counter 'plant blindness' — the tendency to overlook plants in one's environment. Seeing plants in art can "draw human attention back to plants, showing us what we value as a society," says artist Nirupa Rao.

A decade ago, Rao was invited by conservation scientists Divya Mudappa and T R Shankar Raman to illustrate a book on 30 tree species of the Anamalai Hills in the southern Western Ghats, where they run a rainforest restoration programme. With striking illustrations and concise descriptions, 'Pillars of Life' encouraged readers to pause and look closely at trees.

Drawing The Line

Yet, artists and scientists alike are cautious about overstating art's conservation impact. There is no evidence that a line drawing alone has saved a species from extinction.

"It's like saying botanical wallpaper will make you want to protect plants," quips botanist Vinita Gowda, associate professor in the department of biological sciences at IISER Bhopal. "However, art and science, used together, can help shift public opinion."

Plant ecologist and field botanist Navendu Page, whose field guide 'Trees of Arunachal Pradesh' combines illustrations and photography, also argues for a strategic approach. "Botanical art, used in a conservation campaign, should have a clear objective and implementation plan.... For botanical art to tell an impactful conservation story, the right audience, timing, medium and narrative need to come together."

When that happens, botanical art can shift perception, deepen understanding and help people appreciate plants again — making the botanical artist, as a species in recovery, a necessity rather than a curiosity.

ಪುರಸಭೆ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ, ನವಲಗುಂದ

ಕ್ರ.ಸಂ.ಪುಸನ/ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ/ಟೆಂಡರ್/ವಹಿ/2026-27/135 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 18-05-2026

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

(ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಪಬ್ಲಿಕ್ ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ)

ನವಲಗುಂದ ಪುರಸಭೆಯಿಂದ 2025-26 ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಎಸ್.ಎಫ್.ಸಿ ಅನುದಾನದಡಿ(Grants for infrastructure of Upgraded ULBs and new ULBS from gps) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ. **DMA/2026-27/BD/ WORK_ INDENT58205**, ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ **ರೂ.712.94 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳು** ನೇದ್ದರ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯನ್ನು ಅನುಷ್ಠಾನಗೊಳಿಸಲು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕತೆ ಅದ್ಯಾದೇಶ 1999-2000 ಪ್ರಕಾರ ಆಕ್ಟ 2000ರ ನಿಯಮದಂತೆ ಸ್ಟ್ಯಾಂಡರ್ಡ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಡಾಕ್ಯುಮೆಂಟ್‌ನ ನಿಯಮದನ್ವಯ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಕೊನೆಯ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 19.06.2026** ರಂದು ನಿಗದಿಪಡಿಸಿ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಪಬ್ಲಿಕ್ ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ದ್ವಿಲಕೋಟೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಪಬ್ಲಿಕ್ ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಲು ಇಚ್ಛಿಸುವ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನೋಂದಾಯಿತರಾದ ಆಸಕ್ತಿಯುಳ್ಳ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ **http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆದುಕೊಳ್ಳಬಹುದು.

ಸೂಚನೆ: ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಪಬ್ಲಿಕ್ ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು ಮತ್ತು ಇತರೆ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಕಛೇರಿ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಯಾವುದೇ ತಿದ್ದುಪಡಿ ಆಥವಾ ಬದಲಾವಣೆಯನ್ನು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಪಬ್ಲಿಕ್ ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ ತಿಳಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ಸಹಿ/-
(ಎಸ್.ಪಿ. ಪೂಜಾರ)
ವಾಸಾಸಂ/ಪ್ರಾ/ಟಿಪ್ರಾ/194/2026-27 ಮುಖ್ಯಾಧಿಕಾರಿ, ಪುರಸಭೆ, ನವಲಗುಂದ.

BENGALURU CENTRAL CITY CORPORATION

Office of the Executive Engineer, Shivaji Nagar Division, Thimmaiah Road, Queens Road, Bangalore

Tender NO. EE/SJN/E-PROC/10/2026-27 Date : 18.05.2026

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER
(Two cover) (Only through E-Procurement)

(Through GOK KPP Portal https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in only)

The Executive Engineer (Shivaji Nagar Division), BCCC, Bangalore invites tenders eligible Contractors registered in CPWD / KPWD / Railways / MES/ National Highway or any State Government Organizations for the construction of work detailed in the table below.

Sl. No.	Name of Work
1.	Construction of stepped gabion seater near waste weir, boating area, lake observation decks and walkway improvement in Ulsoor Lake (CALL-III) Drufiorment. **Amount Put to Tender (Without GST) : Rs. 786.90 Lakhs, EMD : Rs. 11,80,000.00**
2.	Park area development, construction of seating plaza, civic center and other finishing works in Ulsoor Lake (Call-III). **Amount Put to Tender (Without GST) : Rs. 787.20 Lakhs, EMD : Rs. 11,80,000.00**

Calendar of Events : (1) Pre bid meeting will be held on **27.05.2026 at 15.00** in the office of the Chief Engineer Zone-2, Bengaluru City Central Palike, Annexure-3, 4th Floor, GBA office compound, NR Square, Bengaluru **(2)** Last Date for uploading the Filled Tender Document is **06.06.2026 up to 16.00pm. (3)** Date of Technical bid opening of Tenders is on **08.06.2026 by 11.00 am (4)** Date of Financial bid Opening of Tenders is on after Technical bid approved.

Sd/- Executive Engineer Shivaji Nagar Division, BCCC

GOVT OF KARNATAKA
HEALTH DEPARTMENT GADAG
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE TALUKA HOSPITAL RON
e-mail : cmotlhron@gmail.com

No: AMORON/MANPOWER-TENDER /2026-27 Date : 08/05/2026

E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTIFICATION

Online tenders are invited in two bid system for the providing group d and non-clinical staff through outsource to taluk general hospital Ron for the year 2026-27 and **22-05-2026** Last date for submission of tender. for more further information visit the e procurement website **https:/kppp.karnataka.gov.in** using this tender reference no **DHFWS/2026-27/SE2228** can be verified.

Sd/-
ADMINISTRATIVE MEDICAL OFFICER
TALUKA HOSPITAL RON

DIPR/Gadag/67/DeshpandePublicity/2026-27

DIRECTORATE OF MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATON

9th Floor, Vishveshwariah Tower, Dr.B.R. Ambedkar Veedhi Bengaluru -560001. Ph: 080-22867172/ 22866302
e-mail: sedmatech@gmail.com web: https://municipala.dmn.gov.in

No. 1790271/DMA/TECHMISC/44/2025(P-2) Date: 18.05.2026

Short-term Tender Notification

The Short-term tenders are invited for Counstruction of Gas/Electrical Crematoriums under UIDF Scheme. The details are as follows:

Sl. No.	Description	Project Cost (Rs.in Lakhs)
1.	Construction of Electrical Crematorium at Karwar CMC and Gas Crematorium at Hassan CMC under UIDF Scheme. (DMA/2024-25/ BD/WORK_INDENT36477/Call-4	800.00

The tenders are invited on K.P.P. Portal in Two Cover System and interested/agencies are requested to participate within the date indicated in the K.P.P. Portal. Any information can be obtained through K.P.P. Portal.

Sd/- Superintending Engineer
Directorate of Municipal Administration
Bengaluru

DIPR/CP/718/SA/2026-27

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
MINOR IRRIGATION & GROUND WATER DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER MINOR IRRIGATION & GROUND WATER DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENTDIVISION, BELAGAVI.
PH NO.0831-2463850 / FAX NO.0831-2423008

No.EE /MI&GWDDD/BGM/TND/AE/2026-27/351 Date:18-05-2026

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION (KW-1&4)

As per KTTP Act-2000 and recent Amendments the Executive Engineer Minor Irrigation & Ground Water Development Department Division Belagavi has invited the Item rate tender through KPPP (https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in). Total 05 Nos. of Belagavi/Gokak/Athani Sub Divisions. Estimate Amount Highest Rs.161.50 Lakhs & Lowest Rs.2.80 Lakh. 1. For KW-4 work: Date of Pre-tender meeting:25-05-2026 at 11.00 AM, 2.Tender Receipt Last Date:26-05-2026 Evening 4.00 PM, 3. Tender Opening Date:27-05-2026 Evening 4.30 PM (if possible), 4. For Tender Details office address: Executive Engineer, Minor Irrigation & Ground Water Development Department Division Belagavi & www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in

Sd/-Executive Engineer,
M.I & GWDD Division, Belagavi.

DIPR/BGM/RO-NO-268/RSMCA/2026-27

NAGPUR | GMR
TENDER NOTICE

GMR Nagpur International Airport Limited (GNIAL) is issuing Expression of Interest for prequalification of applicants for **Expansion and Upgradation of existing Passenger Terminal Building (PTB) and Rehabilitation of flexible and rigid pavement works at Airside and landside of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar International Airport, Nagpur, Maharashtra.**

Please visit tender section at **gmraero.com/nagpur-airport.aspx** for further details.

GNIAL/3/PREM ASSOCIATES

JODHPUR VIDYUT VITARAN NIGAM LIMITED

(MATERIAL MANAGEMENT & CONTRACT WING) NEW POWER HOUSE, INDUSTRIAL AREA, JODHPUR-342003 PHONE: (0291) 2742223, FAX: (0291) 2746539

E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE

E-Procurement Tenders are invited for supply of 36 KV Outdoor VCB Kiosks under TN-2152(UBN JVV2627GLOB00119).

Details regarding Quantity, Tender cost, Earnest Money, Schedule date of tender opening for aforesaid tenders are available on our website at **energy.rajasthan.gov.in/jdvvnl** and also at **http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in.**

Raj.Samwad/C/26/3014 SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER (MM&C)

बिजली संबंधी शिकायतों के लिए टोल फ्री नम्बर 1800 180 6045

CHITTARANJAN LOCOMOTIVE WORKS
CORRIGENDUM

No. : 75263842A, Dated:-14/05/2026. The following Corrigendum is prepared against **Tender no. 75263842A** which is scheduled to be open on **25/05/2026, at 11.00 Hrs.** is carried out as under:- **Sl.No. : [1]. Particulars:** Tender Opening Date. **As per Tender Document: 14/05/2026. To be Read as: 25/05/2026.**

PR7/ 351 AMM/M/CLW/CRJ

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MUNICIPAL CORPORATION CHANDIGARH

E-TENDER NOTICE

Sr. No.	Name of Work	Bid Submission Schedule (Online)	Opening Technical Bid (Online)
EXECUTIVE ENGINEER - SWM Division MC			
1.	Shed Extension at 300 TPD Wet Waste Plant Dadumajra, Chandigarh-(Re-invite). **App. Amount : Rs. 2,42,31,884/- Earnest Money : Rs. 4,84,640/- Time Period : 09 Months Tender Fee : Rs. 5,000/-**	19.05.2026 at 9:00 A.M To 29.05.2026 at 11:00 A.M	29.05.2026 at 11:30 A.M

Note:- All other terms and conditions and complete DNIT are uploaded on website https://etenders.chd.nic.in

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
SWM Division, Room No. 612, 6th Floor, New Deluxe Building, MC Sector-17, Chandigarh email id : mcc.swm2020@gmail.com

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
DEPARTMENT OF SCHOOL EDUCATION
OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER, NEW PUBLIC OFFICES, NRUPATUNGA ROAD, BANGALORE-560 001, Mobile : 9448999424, E-mail :ddpiplanning@gmail.com, WEBSITE:(http://www.schooleducation.kar.nic.in)

No:DPI-CPI0PLN1/IVA-TENDER/2026-27 Date:18.05.2026

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

Office of the Commissioner, Department of School Education, Bengaluru invites short term tender for identification of Independent Verification Agency for developing 500 to 800 KPS in coordination with Asian Development Bank.

1	RFP Reference No.	**DPI/2026-27/SE0441/CALL-2**
2	Date of Commencement of Download of RFP Document from Karnataka Public Procurement Portal website http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in	**18/05/2026 onwards**
3	Last Date and Time for uploading Online Queries in Karnataka Public Procurement Portal	**20/05/2026 5:30 PM**
4	Date and time of Pre-bid Meeting	**20/05/2026 11:00 AM** at the following venue: Office of Commissioner, School Education, First floor, New public office Building, Nrupatunga road, K R Circle, Bengaluru
5	Last Date and Time for uploading of RFP in Karnataka Public Procurement Portal	**27/05/2026 5:00 PM**
6	Date and Time of Online Opening of RFP Applications	**29/05/2026 11:00 AM**
7	Place of Opening of RFP Applications	**Online at Karnataka Public Procurement Portal**
8	Date and time of presentation for methodology on the project	**01/06/2026 12:00 PM**
9	Address for Communication	Office of the Commissioner, School Education, First floor, New public office Building, Nrupatunga Road, K R Circle, Bengaluru-560001, Email: ddpiplanning@gmail.com Contact: 080-22270072, 9448999424

Note: 1) Completed tenders shall be uploaded through e-tendering system by the Tenderers using their User ID on or before the last date & time stipulated. **2)** In the event of the specified date of opening of RFP being declared a holiday for the employer, the RFP will be opened on the next working day at the same time. **3)** Only Online Queries through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal will be accepted. Queries sent through letters, emails or any other mode will not be entertained.

Sd/-
DDPI(PLANNING)

DIPR/CP/JA/719/2026-27

S. E. RAILWAY – TENDER

e-Tender Notice No. : 4634-GRC-CE-C-II-17-2026. For & on behalf of President of India, Chief Engineer (CON)/II/Garden Reach, Kolkata-700043 invites e-tender for the following work : Following tender has been uploaded on website **www.ireps.gov.in** The tender will be closed at 12.00 hrs. on due date. **Brief Description of Works** : Composite work for Execution of work for Yard remodeling works at Adra-Sanka-Rukni in connection with Adra-Sanka-Rukni doubling Project under the jurisdiction of Dy CE/Con/Adra. **Approx. Cost** :₹ 82.19 Crore. **Bid Security** : ₹ 1,64,38,300/-. **Completion Period** : 24 months. **Closing Date** : 12.06.2026. Interested tenderers may visit website **www.ireps. gov.in** for full details/ description/ specification of the tenders and submit their bids online. In no case manual tenders for these items will be accepted. **NB** : "Prospective Bidders may regularly visit **www.ireps.gov.in** to participate in all other tenders." **(PR-183)**

कार्यालय परियोजना प्रबन्धक, यूनिट-01 कन्सट्रक्शन एण्ड डिजाइन सर्विसेज, उत्तर प्रदेश जल निगम (नगरीय), (उ0प्र0 सरकार का उपक्रम), का0पता : भवन सं0-6, कृष्णा कुटीर, व्हाईट हाउस, फेज-2, वीरास्वामी रेड्डी ले-आउट के समीप, कांदुगौड़ी, बैंगलुरू

पत्रांक :– 542/एम–6/106
दिनांक 15.05.2026

ई-निविदा सूचना

उत्तर प्रदेश जल निगम की ओर से अधोहस्ताक्षरी द्वारा CONSTRUCTION OF HEALTH CENTER AT DOCTOR HARISINGH GOUR VISHWAVIDYALAYA, SAGAR (MP) के निर्माण कार्य, अनुमानित लागत रू० 1638.79 लाख (INCLUDING GST & LABOUR CESS AND EXCLUDING EPF AND ESI) हेतु दिनांक 15.06.2026 के अपरान्ह 04:00 बजे तक ई-निविदा आमन्त्रित की जाती हैं। उक्त कार्य हेतु ई-निविदा प्रपत्र दिनांक 16.05.2006 से दिनांक 15.06.2026 के मध्य उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार की e-procurement वेबसाइट https://etender.up.nic.in से डाउनलोड किये जा सकते है तथा ई-निविदा दिनांक 16.06.2026 को अपरान्ह 12:30 बजे कार्यालय परियोजना प्रबन्धक, यूनिट-01, सी०एण्ड डी०एस०, उ०प्र० जल निगम (नगरीय), भवन सं०–6, कृष्णा कुटीर व्हाईट हाउस, फेज-2, वीरास्वामी रेड्डी ले-आउट के समीप, कांदुगौड़ी, बैंगलुरु में खोली जायेगी। ई-निविदा प्रपत्र का मूल्य रु० 20,000.00 + GST@18% अतिरिक्त देय होगा।

निविदा से सम्बन्धित विस्तृत विवरण विभाग की बेवसाइट www.cdsupjn.org एवं प्रोक्योमेन्ट पोर्टल https://etender.up.nic.in पर उपलब्ध है। समस्त शुद्धि पत्र (Corrigendum) https://etender.up.nic.in पर ही अपलोड किये जॉयगे, इनका पृथक से कोई प्रकाशन नहीं किया जायेगा। निविदादाताओं को सलाह दी जाती है कि वे उक्त बेबसाईट का समय-समय पर अवलोकन करते रहें।

TODAY'S FACE-OFF
RR vs LSG
TV TIME 7:30 PM
STAR SPORTS / JIOHOTSTAR

PLAYED 7
Won by RR 5 (71.42%)
Won by LSG 2 (28.58%)

LAST FIVE MATCHES
RR L L L W L
LSG W L W L L

VENUE: JAIPUR
ODDS
RR 7/10 | LSG 5/4

IPL 2026

"IN TODAY'S T20 CRICKET, EVERYONE TALKS ABOUT HAVING THE X-FACTOR. BUT HAZLEWOOD AND BHUVI ARE TRADITIONAL BOWLERS AND YEAR AFTER YEAR, THEY KEEP SUCCEEDING. THAT TELLS US YOU DON'T ALWAYS NEED TO TRY DIFFERENT THINGS."
—KL Rahul | DC batter

KISHAN RULES CHEPAUK

Batter's 70 Off 47 Helps SRH Chase Down 181, Seal Playoff Berth Along With GT, RCB

Dwaipayan.Datta
@timesofindia.com

Chennai: The magic of Chepauk was in full view on Monday night, but it wasn't enough. A slow pitch, the spin choke, the sea of yellow in the stands, everything seemed to fall into place. But there was an Ishan Kishan standing in the way.

As a 'still unfit' MS Dhoni — the architect of many such magic nights for CSK — watched from the dressing room, Kishan played the kind of innings one expects from a top Indian batter. The victory took SRH into the playoffs along with Gujarat Titans and RCB, while CSK's hopes now hang by a thread.

Chasing 181 was not going to be easy on a pitch where the ball refused to come on to the bat. Add to that the dimensions of Chepauk, which are not exactly over-boundary friendly. Wickets fell around Kishan and even trusted wrecker-in-chief Heinrich Klaasen got out at the wrong moment, stumped off left-arm wrist-spinner Noor Ahmad after a brilliant 47 off 26 balls.

But Kishan found that zone one saw during India's famous win against Pakistan in Colombo a few months ago. He gave himself a little bit of time, allowed Klaasen to prosper during the course of their 75-run third-wicket partnership and then cut loose once the South African was dismissed.

In the 18th over, bowled by left-arm pacer Mukesh Choudhary, Kishan found the big hits and took 15, virtually killing off the game.

Kishan fell with six runs still needed but SRH did enough to get over the line in the 19th over. CSK skipper Ruturaj Gaikwad, though, was disappointing with his handling of resources and failed to bowl his spin ace Akeal Hosein for four overs. The left-arm finger-spinner finished with 1/21 off three and it remains a mystery why the captain did not use him again when he had bowled so well in the early stages of the Klaasen-Kishan partnership.

While Kishan was the hero, SRH skipper Pat Cummins too deserves special mention. Cummins came on when CSK opener Sanju Samson was going great guns. Varying his pace and using the surface smartly, he removed Samson and then got the wickets of the in-form Kartik Sharma and Ruturaj Gaikwad to put the brakes on the CSK innings.

Cummins used the lack of pace on the pitch brilliantly and was well backed up by Eshan Malinga, Praful Hinge and Sakib Hussain. All of them kept hitting hard lengths, took pace off the ball and made the CSK middle order huff and puff.

Dewald Brevis still tried to break free with a quickfire 44 but when Malinga got his wicket in the 18th over, CSK's hopes of a 190-plus total took a hit.

And that proved costly in the end as SRH held firm to enter the last four, beating a team that has consistently bothered them over the years.

Dhoni still unfit

MS Dhoni could not get fit in time for CSK's final home game, revealed captain Ruturaj at the toss.

BA Raju

70 Ishan Kishan's highest score vs CSK, bettering the 68* in Sharjah on Oct 23, 2020. Of his 22 IPL fifties, 8 have come in successful chases.

44 Dewald Brevis' score, his highest this season. His only two IPL fifties came last year: 57 vs GT in Ahmedabad on May 25 and 52 vs KKR at Eden Gardens, Kolkata on May 7.

200 Wickets at 27.2 in T20s for Pat Cummins in his 177th match. His tally includes three instances of four-wicket hauls with a best of 4/16 for New South Wales vs Tasmania in Hobart on Feb 1, 2011. His best IPL performance is 4/34 for KKR vs RR in Dubai on Nov 1, 2020. —Stats: Rajesh Kumar

SCOREBOARD

CSK: S Samson c Kishan b Cummins 27, R Gaikwad c Malinga b Cummins 15, U Patel b Hussain 13, K Sharma c Reddy b Cummins 32, D Brevis b Malinga 44, S Dube b Hussain 26, P Veer c and b Hinge 11, A Hosein not out 3; **Extras: (w 8, nb 1) 9; Total: (7 wkts in 20 ovrs) 180; FoW:** 1-31, 2-48, 3-90, 4-100, 5-159, 6-164, 7-180; **Bowling:** Reddy 2-0-35-0, Hinge 3-0-37-1, Cummins 4-0-28-3, Malinga 4-0-26-1, Sakib 4-0-34-2, Shivang 3-0-20-0.

SRH: A Sharma c Johnson b Hosein 26, T Head c and b Choudhary 6, I Kishan c Patel b Kamboj 70, H Klassen st Samson b Noor 47, N Reddy c Patel b Choudhary 11, S Arora not out 10, S Ravichandran not out 5; **Extras: (w6) 6; Total: (5 wkts; 19 ovrs) 181; FoW:** 1-18, 2-56, 3-131, 4-153, 5-175; **Bowling:** Choudhary 4-0-36-2, Johnson 3-0-26-0, Kamboj 4-0-46-1, Noor 4-0-40-1, Hosein 3-0-21-1, Dube 1-0-12-0.

Result: SRH won by 5 wickets.

HOW THEY STAND

TEAM	M	W	L	NR	NRR	P
RCB	13	9	4	0	1.065	18
GT	13	8	5	0	0.400	16
SRH	13	8	5	0	0.350	16
PBKS	13	6	6	1	0.227	13
RR	12	6	6	0	0.027	12
CSK	13	6	7	0	-0.016	12
DC	13	6	7	0	-0.871	12
KKR	12	5	6	1	-0.038	11
MI	12	4	8	0	-0.504	8
LSG	12	4	8	0	-0.701	8

TIME TO ASK APOLLO +AI
THE 5-POINT RULE
Dropping your BP by just 5 points cuts your fatal stroke risk by 13%.
Scan to protect your heart
For any Health Query Chat with
Ask Apollo (AI)
Apollo AI: Clinical excellence for healthier India
Apollo 24|7

Workload concerns cloud India selection

Pacers Prince, Mohsin Could Be 'Dark Horses' For Afghanistan ODIs

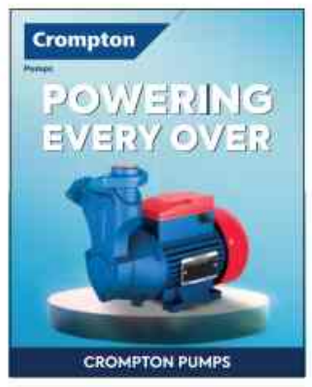
Gaurav.Gupta@timesofindia.com

Mumbai: Workload management after a gruelling IPL-2026 season is expected to dominate discussions when the national selectors meet in Guwahati on Tuesday to pick India's squads for next month's one-off Test and three-match ODI series against Afghanistan national cricket team. The one-off Test, which is not part of the World Test Championship cycle, will be played in New Chandigarh from June 6-10, followed by ODIs in Dharamshala (June 14), Lucknow (June 17) and Chennai (June 20).

Lucknow Super Giants pacers Prince Yadav and Mohsin Khan have emerged as strong contenders after impressive IPL campaigns. The selectors could also consider Jammu and Kashmir seamer Auqib Nabi.

"There will be a discussion on the workload management of Bumrah and Siraj. If they are rested from the ODIs, Prince Yadav and Mohsin Khan could be considered," sources said. "So far, no player has asked for a rest. The selectors will have to study the fitness reports."

The ODI series will see Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma returning to action. With India scheduled to tour England later this summer for five T20Is and three ODIs, apart from two T20Is in Ireland, the selectors are expected to closely monitor the fitness and workload of key players, especially fast bowlers Jasprit Bumrah and Mohammed Siraj.



BIG BASH OPENER MAY TAKE PLACE IN CHENNAI

Chennai: The MA Chidambaram Stadium will host the opening match of the Big Bash T20 League (BBL) in the second week of Dec. The Tamil Nadu Cricket Association (TNCA) had received the proposal earlier this year and left the final decision to the BCCI. A source close to the development said the BCCI has given its nod. This will be the first time that a match of a foreign franchise league match will take place in India.

Five officials from Cricket Australia (CA) visited Chepauk on the day of the IPL clash between CSK and SRH on Monday. "Five CA officials came in the afternoon. We had a meeting and they carried out an inspection of the dressing rooms and other facilities," the source said.

—Neha.Surana@timesofindia.com

BCCI NOT UNDER RTI ACT: CIC

Information Commission Reverses 2018 Order, States Board Not A Public Authority, Imposing Govt Control Could Disrupt 'Balanced Economic Structure'

Arani.Basu@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: The Central Information Commission (CIC) on Monday reversed its 2018 order and held that the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) doesn't come under the purview of Right To Information (RTI) act. The commission dismissed an appeal filed before the ministry of youth affairs & sports in 2017, seeking information regarding the provisions/guidelines under which BCCI represents India and selects players for national and international tournaments and also raised queries concerning the authority vested in the board by Government of India.

In the order, accessed by **TOI**, it was also observed that it is not appropriate to assume that increased governmental supervision enhances the functioning of BCCI. It warned that superimposed govt control could risk 'disrupt a finely balanced economic structure'.

The commission also pointed out the Supreme Court-appointed Justice Lodha committee's recommendations for transparency and reform in sports administration were only advisory in nature and "could not override the express statutory framework contained in Section 2(h) of the RTI Act".

The matter was reconsidered after the Madras High Court in Sept last year remitted the CIC's earlier Oct 2018 order for fresh adjudication. In 2018, CIC held the BCCI as the public authority under the RTI Act and directed the then president, secretary and committee of administrators (CoA) to designate information officers and put in place a system of online and offline mechanisms to receive the applications for information under the Act. The order further issued more directions against BCCI, following which the board challenged the order before the Madras High Court. The commission clarified that the Supreme Court had not declared the BCCI to be a "public authority" under the RTI Act.

In its fresh order, passed through information commissioner PR Ramesh, CIC stated: "the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) does not fall within the ambit of "public authority" under Section 2(h) of the Right to Information Act, 2005, and therefore is not subject to the provisions of the RTI Act."

TALKING POINT

The CIC order cited that the BCCI is a society registered under the Tamil Nadu Societies Registration Act. "BCCI is neither established by or under the Constitution nor created by any law enacted by Parliament or a State Legislature. The Commission further noted that the BCCI was not constituted through any govt notification or executive order," read the order.

Besides stating that govt has no role in appointment of office-bearers and internal functioning of the board, the commission further noted BCCI's financial independence as the board generates its revenue through media rights, sponsorships, broadcasting arrangements, ticket sales, and other commercial activities. "Tax exemptions or statutory concessions available generally under law cannot be treated as "substantial financing" by the Government within the meaning of the RTI Act," the order stated.

'Indian cricket a compelling illustration'

The CIC chose to address assumptions that increased governmental supervision is sufficient for functioning of an organisation. The CIC also highlighted the efficient economic model that the world's richest cricket board and India's strongest sports body managed to create through IPL.

"It may not be appropriate to proceed on the assumption that increased governmental supervision would, in and of itself, enhance the functioning or fairness of institutions such as the BCCI," read the observation in the order. "To superimpose a model of oversight premised solely on governmental control may fail to account for these realities and could risk unintended consequences, including inefficiencies or disruptions in a finely balanced economic structure," it added.

"The ecosystem of cricket in India presents a compelling illustration. The evolution of the BCCI from a colonial-era administrative body into the financial epicentre of global cricket reflects one of the most significant transformations in contemporary sports economics," the observation read.

ARE OTHER CRICKET BOARDS SUBJECT TO TRANSPARENCY LAWS?

- **England and Wales Cricket Board:** Private, non-profit body. Not under any legal obligation to disclose internal decisions, policies and financial records to the public.
- **Cricket Australia:** Registered as a not-for-profit limited company. Does not fall in the ambit of the nation's Freedom of Information Act, federally or state-wise. Corporate transparency culture prevails. Details of financial activities filed with the Australian Securities and Investments Commission.
- **Cricket South Africa:** Private, non-profit. Does not fall under the South African government's transparency laws. Public access to financial, administrative and other miscellaneous records governed by the Promotion of Access to Information Act, subject only to exercising or protecting civil rights.
- **Cricket West Indies:** Autonomous body independent of government's direct control.
- **Sri Lanka Cricket:** Engaged in legal tussle in the Court of Appeal to ascertain whether it falls under the country's RTI Act.
- **Pakistan Cricket Board:** Autonomous body but financial statements available in public domain. Raises operational funds through media/broadcasting rights, corporate sponsorships, ticket sales and Pakistan Super League. AGENCIES

DC cap 'home run' with win but questions remain about surface

Prasanth.Menon@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: Delhi Capitals started their home campaign this season with a six-wicket win over Mumbai Indians and ended it with a five-wicket victory against Rajasthan Royals on Sunday.

Sandwiched between those wins were five losses here at the Arun Jaitley Stadium, which has left them with only a narrow window of advancing into the playoffs with one away game remaining against KKR at the Eden Gardens next Sunday.

The Capitals couldn't come to terms with the varying nature of the pitch at Kotla and often failed to find the right strategy or team composition for their home games. "Earlier I used to think a lot after seeing the wicket, but now I'm not thinking too much because whenever I've tried to predict it, the opposite has happened," skipper Axar Patel said.

Coach Hemang Badani was more critical of the surface after his side's win against the Royals. "We have stopped discussing the surface. We play this venue as an away venue," he said.

With franchises having no role in pitch preparation and the BCCI-appointed curators deciding the nature of the surface at each venue, 'home advantage' is now a thing of the past in the IPL. Capitals are not the lone team to suffer. Lucknow Super Giants and Mumbai Indians have lost four of their six games at the Atal Bihari Vajpayee Stadium and the Wankhede. Punjab Kings and Rajasthan Royals have had an additional home problems to deal with. While Punjab won three of their four games in New Chandigarh, they lost all three in their second home base at the HPCA Stadium in Dharamshala.

The Royals maintained an all-win record in the three matches at ACA Stadium in Guwahati. However, they lost all three at their primary home base at Sawai Mansingh Stadium in Jaipur. Kolkata Knight Riders enjoy a 50% win record at the Eden Gardens.

However, not all teams are struggling at home, notably league leaders RCB, who have enjoyed quite the home run. Despite playing in two home venues in Bengaluru and Raipur, their only home defeat came against the Delhi Capitals at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium. The Sunrisers, CSK and Gujarat Titans too have a better home win record.

Jatin Kumar

KOTLA PUZZLE: DC batters have been tested in their home games

GALLERY

B'desh set Pak 437-run target

Mushfiqur Rahim hit 137 as Bangladesh set Pakistan a record target of 437 runs to win the second Test. Pakistan finished Day Three without scoring a run before bad light forced early stumps.

Brief scores: Bangladesh: 278 & (o/n: 110/3) 390 in 102.2 overs (Mahmudul Hasan Joy 52, Mushfiqure Rahim 137, Litton Das 69; Khurram Shahzad 4-86, Hasan Ali 2-83, Sajid Khan 3-126) vs **Pakistan: 232**.

Blasters beat FC Goa: Kerala Blasters defeated FC Goa 2-1 in an ISL match in Kochi on Monday. Kevin Yoke and Fallou Ndiaye scored for Blasters while Muhammed Nemil netted on for Goa, reports **Rayson Tennyson**.

Neymar dismisses 'nonsense' criticism: Brazil's record scorer Neymar said he had to endure "nonsense" criticism as he worked his way back from serious injuries and is satisfied he has done all he can to prove he is fully fit and deserves a place in Carlo Ancelotti's World Cup squad. "Physically, I feel great. I've been improving with every game," Neymar said. "I've done my absolute best – it wasn't easy. It's been years of hard work, and also of a lot of nonsense being said."

Messi shines: Lionel Messi's goal and dazzling assist finally earned Inter Miami a first win on Sunday, beating the Portland Timbers 2-0. The 38-year-old Argentine icon confounded the Timbers' defence all night long.

Match abandoned after fans storm the field: Nantes fans stormed the field during their team's final game of the Ligue 1 against Toulouse, bringing play to a halt with the match later abandoned. Dozens of supporters, some wearing balaclavas, entered the pitch after 22 minutes, with the score 0-0. Supporters threw flares and players were ushered off the field.

'Hope for bigger IPL window in next cycle'

IPL Chairman Arun Dhumal Tells TOI Bilaterals Not Adding Enough Value, Downplays Media Rights Worries

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Dharamshala: IPL chairman Arun Dhumal took time out from his busy schedule here to talk to **TOI** about a range of issues. *Excerpts...*

The IPL has run into a few off-field controversies this year...

There have been a couple of instances. As per rules, whatever strict enforcement BCCI could have done, the action has already been taken — be it ACSU or match referees. We are very firm when it comes to the integrity of the game. There has been more hype in the media. The game is very clean. The boys know how to behave and what to do. Any instance in which something would have happened inadvertently has been dealt with very strongly.

Mustafizur Rahman's ouster from the IPL led to a major crisis. Where does BCCI stand now on Bangladeshi players in IPL?

It is a dynamic situation. BCCI would want to maintain the best of relations with all cricket boards. To keep the interest of the game is our top priority. I would not want to comment on what has happened. Whatever happened is a thing of the past. Going forward, I see us maintaining very good relations with all cricket boards.

Increasing the number of IPL matches has been discussed for a while now...

The number of games can go up to 94. But unfortunately, given the bilateral commitments that we have till 2027, there is no window wherein we can increase the number of games. The idea was to increase it gradually from 74 to 84 and then to 94. Hopefully when the next bilateral cycle gets planned, if we get a bigger window, then we may think of increasing the number of games.

TOI Interview

IPL franchises and Indian owners are spreading their wings in other leagues. Are we headed the football way?

It depends on what value bilaterals will get in the coming cycle, not only for BCCI but other boards too. One has to fund the game. If you look at other boards, they prefer bilateral series with India. India has been following that commitment despite

Covid challenges for so many years. India can only commit maybe one or two bilaterals over a four-year period cycle. If the revenue is only dependent on India and they are not finding that kind of value with other bilaterals, the other boards can obviously monetize their game with leagues. If the game has to grow, we have to have every country getting good value.

Any apprehensions about the media rights valuation next year after the merger of broadcasters?

Just look at the valuations we have had for the Raj Royals and RCB. If there were apprehensions about the valuation, you wouldn't have got the kind of valuations that has been predicted or given to both the teams. I'm confident that when we have the media rights cycle for the next five years, it is going to be much better than what we have as of now. IPL is the No. 1 make-in-India brand.

Could you talk about some franchises splitting their home matches between two venues?

It is according to the BCCI policy so that the game spreads across the country. Punjab Kings have been playing IPL games in Dharamshala since 2010. Rajasthan Royals and RCB have said they had a phenomenal experience. It helps the franchises to generate more gate money.

Is there any plan to make it consistent across franchises to make it fair?

Name a team which is winning all seven games at home. It does not matter. They have to play and give their best in all conditions and it is not that BCCI is forcing anybody. The franchises want to venture out to increase their fan base.

Can we see more teams in the WPL, or a home-and-away format?

It all depends on the pool of players available domestically and from overseas. Accordingly you can think of the number of teams. The window for women's cricket is very short. ■

Raj Royals seek late rescue act vs ousted LSG

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Jaipur: Rajasthan Royals began with authority but have stumbled at the business end, leaving themselves dependent on other results. Lucknow Super Giants, already out of contention, arrive with only pride and momentum to play for.

For the Royals, the slide has been particularly damaging. Their five-wicket defeat to Delhi Capitals on Sunday has left their playoff hopes hanging by the thinnest of threads. With just two league matches remaining, the Rajasthan Royals must win both and rely on favourable outcomes elsewhere, a scenario that leaves little room for error.

WEATHER 37°C

The immediate test is this do-or-die clash against LSG at the Sawai Mansingh Stadium on Tuesday. Currently sixth on the table, the Royals need a collective uplift across departments.

RAI OF HOPE

Indian-Origin Golfer Is First Englishman To Win PGA Championship In Over A Century

Chidanand.Rajghatta | TNN

Reuters

Washington: In a sport still associated in India with colonial clubs, corporate memberships, and retirees in pastel trousers, Aaron Rai has delivered a moment that should resonate far beyond the fairways of the west.

The low-profile Britisher of Indian origin won the 2026 PGA Championship on Sunday, becoming the first player of Indian heritage to capture one of golf's Major titles — and doing so with understated precision that has defined his career.

Rai entered the title scrap, boiling with eight Major champions, ranked 44th in the world. He held off a star-studded leaderboard featuring Rory McIlroy and Jon Rahm to finish with a nerveless final round highlighted by a stunning 68-foot birdie putt.

So unexpected was the 31-year-old's win that ESPN said he was the biggest long-shot Major winner in at least 20 years along with a story headlined "How Aaron Rai outlasted golf's biggest stars to win the PGA Championship." He had never finished in the top 10 of a Major before, and on Saturday, 14 players held a share of the lead, with the analytics website Data Golf putting Rai's chance of winning at just 3.6%. The insane 68-foot putt on the 17th hole, buried the field. The Brit media went to town, noting that no Englishman had won the title in more than 100 years.

For Indian golf followers, the triumph carried the heft of immigrant success. Rai was born in Wolverhampton, UK to a family of Indian origin whose roots are in Punjab. His upbringing was far removed from the manicured privilege often associated with golf. He has spoken openly about his parents, Amrik Singh and Dalvir Shukla, stretching the family budget to buy him clubs and teaching him to treat them with reverence — which explains why he still uses iron covers, a habit routinely mocked in elite golf circles.

Rai's mother, who introduced him to the sport when he was four via plastic golf set after he was struck by a hockey stick, caddied for him in the early years. The role has now been taken over by his wife Gaurika Bishnoi, who is also a professional golfer from Rajasthan, with eight wins in India's Hero Women's Pro Golf Tour. He in turn has caddied for her on the European circuit.

"I'm not exaggerating when I say that I wouldn't be here without her," Rai said after the win, acknowledging his family and his Indian and Kenyan ties (his mother emigrated via Kenya). "She (Gaurika) is a professional golfer herself. So her mindset, her advice, her thoughts, whether it's technique or the way I'm holding myself is absolutely invaluable. Asked how he would be celebrating the win (with a $4 million paycheck that comes with it), Gaurika joked, "He'll probably have Chipotle."

That modest, immigrant-family story should strike a chord in India, where golf remains an aspirational sport. Yet, India has quietly produced several world-class golfers, not counting a third-or fourth generation Indian from Fiji, Vijay Singh, who won three Majors at the turn of the century.

Jeev Milkha Singh became the trailblazer of modern Indian golf, winning four titles on the European Tour and breaking into the world top 30. Arjun Atwal made history in 2010 by becoming the first Indian-born player to win on the PGA Tour when he captured the Wyndham Championship in North Carolina. Then came Anirban Lahiri, whose consistency on the Asian and European circuits carried him into multiple Major championships and the Presidents Cup. Shubhankar Sharma briefly electrified Indian golf fans, while women's golf saw pioneers like Aditi Ashok emerge as global contenders, narrowly missing an Olympic medal in Tokyo.

Rai's triumph arrives not merely as a sporting achievement but as a cultural moment in a country whose president is hooked on golf. Here is a player carrying visible traces of the Indian diaspora characteristics — disciplined, understated, technically meticulous — prevailing in one of sport's most psychologically brutal arenas.

MAJOR MOVES

- **THE VICTOR:** Aaron Rai made six birdies in his last 10 holes for a 5-under 65 to win by three shots at 9-under 271
- **THE SPOILS:** Rai won **$3,690,000**
- **THE SILVER MEDALS:** Jon Rahm (68) and Alex Smalley (70) tied for second.

1 Rai becomes the first English winner of the PGA Championship since Jim Barnes in 1919.

"I'm very proud to be from England. I'm very proud of India and Kenya as well. My mom still spends a lot of time in Kenya. Both of my sets of grandparents from my mom and dad's side were from India. I'm very proud to be a mix of all of them." —Rai

Deepika, Atanu, Ojas left out of squad

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Kolkata: India will be fielding a new-look archery squad for the upcoming Asian Games starting in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan, from Sept 19. Olympian couple Deepika Kumari and Atanu Das failed to make the cut at the selection trials that concluded at SAI, Sonepat centre in Haryana on Monday. The top three in each category were named in the Asian Games squad while the fourth archer in the rankings will travel for World Cup Stage 3 and 4 events at Antalya, Turkey (June 9-14) and Madrid, Spain (July 7-12), respectively.

ASIAN GAMES

Both Deepika and Atanu ended fourth in the recurve women and men's categories to make the World Cup sides. While Deepika missed the last Asian Games too, Atanu will not be there with Olympian Dhiraj Bommadevara, who remains the lone face from the last Games in the recurve section. Star compound archer Abhishek Verma and former World champion Ojas Deotale also failed to find berth among the top four archers at the end of four-day trials. Deotale had won three gold medals in the last Games in Hangzhou in 2023 while Verma had bagged a gold and silver. The Indian challenge will once again be led by compound women archer Jyothi Vennam, who will be taking part in her fourth straight Asian Games.

The recurve women's team will have Olympian Ankita Bhakat as the only face from Hangzhou, along with rising talent Kumkum Mohod and Kirti Sharma.

India squads: (First 3 for Asian Games, 4th for WC-III & IV)
Compound women: Jyothi Vennam, Chikitha, Prithika, Parneet; **Compound men:** Sahil Jadhav, Kushal Dalal, Ganesh Ratnam, Rishabh Yadav; **Recurve women:** Kirti Sharma, Kumkum Mohod, Ankita Bhakat, Deepika Kumari. **Recurve men:** Dhiraj Bommadevara, Neeraj Chauhan, Yashdeep Bhoge, Atanu Das.

He has come this far by being human

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So, we bumped into Aaron Rai at the Indian Open last year.

That was the Women's Indian Open last Oct, where he was happy to fly under the radar, caddying for his wife Gaurika Bishnoi. It was the day she missed the cut at the DLF G&CC, but golf's 'Mr Nice Guy' wasn't in a bad mood, just felt a little awkward as he waited for a quiet nod from his wife. He may have stolen the limelight then, but ironically, it was Gaurika's tee shot at the Masters Par-3 contest and her follow-through 'hip-bump' that had the Augusta crowd and the internet in splits.

This give-and-take spilled over to the iconic moment when a calm Rai walked down the puzzling Aronimink Golf Club, stretching his neck over a bunched leaderboard. He had climbed the '72 Rocky steps' with gloves on both hands to lift the hefty Wanamaker trophy, and collected a giant-sized cheque for $3,690,000, under the suburban skies of Pennsylvania.

The 31-year-old stayed the course 20 miles away from Rocky Balboa's fictional scene, signing cards of 70-69-67-65, thus becoming the first champion in US PGA Championship history to lower his score in each round. Fun fact!

A day earlier, when he was tied-2nd, he had a half-an-hour conversation with his

Reuters

wife in the car en route to the hotel, one that played a big part in his mindset as he walked into Aronimink the next morning.

His 68-ft putt on the penultimate hole effectively marked his name on the trophy, a moment he celebrated with an understated low fist pump. "It seemed everything conspired to get that into the hole."

There was a surreal moment at the news conference when the Wolverhampton-born golfer spotted his name close to "Tiger Woods' and that rewound VHS memories of the 'superhuman' he had idolised since he was five.

Rai had come this far by being human.

And it wouldn't be a surprise, when it finally sinks in, if he harks back to the day in 2018 when he had played a practice round with Danish journeyman Soren Kjeldsen. "It was my first year on the European Tour," he had told **TOI**, "and I remember him saying to me, that the game always knows. And by that, he meant sometimes when you don't practice enough, the game finds you out. If things are not quite right in your personal life, internally, the game always finds you out. So I think the point of him saying that was, stay true to things, keep focused, and keep working hard. The game knows if you're not. But then the game rewards you if you are."

It was this once-in-a-lifetime week when the golfing gods decided to give back to this gentleman, for his work ethic, discipline, humility and deep-rooted sense of family.

Before PGA glory, Aaron's favourite Major moments were his practice rounds with his father Amrik Singh, who quit his job to accompany his son through wind, rain and sunshine. "In 2021, I played my first Open at Royal St George's. I went there two weeks before the event, and my dad and I were walking down the 18th fairway till evening with all the stands deserted, just me and him," Rai recalled. "Then this year (2025), I was lucky enough to play the Masters." Father and son lingered on the course till dusk again, four weeks before the tournament."

There was that emotional high with his mom Dalvir. "In 2017, when I won the Kenya Open, that was a Challenge tour event, but it fell on Mother's Day and my mom was with me that week. She was born and raised there and she hadn't been back for 46 years. Although I was lucky enough to win higher-ranked tournaments later, that was most special," he had shared with **TOI**.

Until Sunday. He missed his parents but Gaurika was by his side.

Aaron's PGA triumph hits close to home

Sahith Theegala

What a sensational week it was at the PGA Championship at Aronimink Golf Club in Pennsylvania! Amid the intensity and pressure of one of golf's biggest stages, Aaron Rai delivered a performance of composure, class and sheer brilliance. Having known Aaron for a while now, I genuinely could not have wished for a nicer person to win a Major. He is not only an exceptional golfer, but also one of the most grounded and gracious individuals you could meet.

Over the final 10 holes, Aaron turned a claustrophobically tight leader board into his own personal masterclass. He converted a three-shot deficit into a three-shot title win.

While Aaron initially plied his trade on the other side of the Atlantic, our bond has grown immensely since he moved over to the PGA Tour. Our families have become close as well. We have a shared heritage as both have Indian roots. We were fortunate to be able to play golf because of our parents' understanding and sacrifices for us. The PGA Tour has only one team event and we have played together as a team in the last two editions in 2024 and 2025. Aaron has been great in those events. (SAHITH THEEGALA IS A PGA TOUR WINNER AND GLOBAL BRAND AMBASSADOR OF HERO MOTOCORP).

Hero

Vinesh fails to get interim relief from Delhi HC

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: In a setback to wrestler Vinesh Phogat, the Delhi High Court on Monday refused to grant her any interim relief to participate in the the May 30-31 selection trials here for this year's Asian Games. HC said it can't pass an order "without hearing the other side" after she sought a direction permitting her to take part in the trials. Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) has declared her "ineligible" to take part in WFI competitions till June 26.

HC, however, permitted Vinesh to give a "comprehensive reply" to the WFI's show-cause notice to her over accusations of indiscipline and anti-doping rule violations. Justice Purushaindra Kumar Kaurav told the WFI to take the show-cause notice to "its logical conclusion" by July 6 and place its decision before it. HC issued notices to the WFI, the Centre and the Indian Olympic Association on Vinesh's petition.

Yamal to miss opener, Fermin's World Cup in doubt

Lamine Yamal is not expected to play in Spain's World Cup opener on June 15 against Cape Verde at Atlanta because of a hamstring injury. Yamal's Barca teammate Fermin Lopez was less fortunate after he was essentially ruled out of World Cup because of a right foot fracture he suffered during the **3-1 home win over Real Betis.**

Modric headlines Croatia's WC roster

Luka Modric will compete in his fifth FIFA World Cup this summer for Croatia. Modric, 40, was named to the 26-man preliminary roster. Forward Ivan Perisic, 37, will participate in his fourth World Cup as manager Zlatko Dalic's squad blends experience with youth. Perisic (152) also has more than 100 caps, as do Mateo Kovacic (111) and Andrej Kramaric (114).

SNAP SHOTS

FORMER ENG CAPTAIN SMITH PASSES AWAY

Former England Test captain Mike Smith has died at the age of 92, his former county side Warwickshire announced on Monday. The bespectacled batter, known by his initials MJK, played 50 Tests for England, captaining on 25 occasions, and was also a rugby union international, earning one cap against Wales in 1956. He made his Test debut against New Zealand in 1958 and played his final Test against Australia in 1972.

CEO Bolton to step down: Sally Bolton, the first female chief executive of the All England Lawn Tennis Club which stages Wimbledon, will step down from her role after this year's Championships end in July, the club announced on Monday.

Avani finishes T-49: Avani Prashanth carded her first bogey-free round of 2-under 71 to finish the week in T-49 place at the German Masters in Hamburg. Avani, who had rounds of 78-69-81-71, ended with a total of 7-over par. Meanwhile, Leonie Harm of Germany clinched her maiden title with a final round of 4-under 69 and a total score of 10-under par.

Thomas ends T-13: Indian golfer Rayhan Thomas carded 5-under 65, his best round of the week, to finish T-13 at the Colonial Life Charity Classic in Elgin, USA. For Thomas, this was his best finish of the 2026 season. With rounds of 68-67-70-65, Thomas totalled 10-under par. This season, Thomas has made five cuts in nine starts.

India U-18 men down Australia: A clinical Indian U-18 men's hockey team bounced back to register a 6-3 victory over their Australian counterparts in the third match of the series in Bhopal on Monday. With this, the hosts levelled the four-match series 1-1. India held the Aussies to a 2-2 draw in the series opener before losing the second match 1-3 on Sunday.

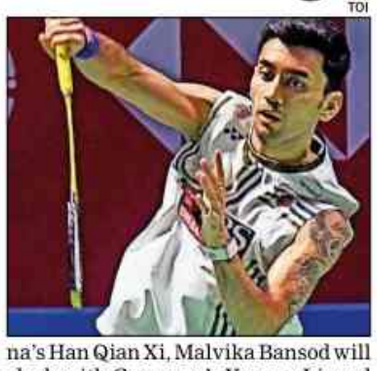
Carvajal set to leave Real: Real Madrid captain Dani Carvajal will leave the club at the end of the season. The Spain international, who has played 450 times for Madrid, has won 27 trophies including six Champions Leagues and four La Liga titles.

Aces score: United Aces FC scored a comfortable 3-0 win against Technico FF in a KSFA 'C' Division league match in Bengaluru on Monday.

Results: South Zone: Gp C: United Aces FC 3 (Mahendra Mani 1, Shreyas Shivakuimar 17-og, Sebastian Jude-50) bt Technico FF 0; Vanquisher Sports 2 (Pradheesh 36, Paras Pradhan 58) bt Play Smart FC 1 (Dhanush B 45); BM FC 1 (Ajith 53) bt FX FC Bangalore 0; **Gp D:** North East Youth FC 1 (Sunil Kumar A 40) bt Freelancers FC 0; FC Real Bengaluru bt TAL FC (w/o); Bangalore Champs Academy 2 (Laga Subramani 19, Mohammed Aathif 40) bt Noel Wilson FC 0.

India seek redemption against French challenge

TOI



Kuala Lumpur: A fresh India-versus-France battle awaits in the men's singles competition and the Indian shuttlers will look to avenge their recent Thomas Cup semifinal defeat when the Malaysia Masters Super 500 tournament begins here on Tuesday.

India had won a bronze medal after suffering a 0-3 loss to France in the Thomas Cup semifinals in Horsens, Denmark earlier this month, losing all three singles matches. This week, three Indian singles players will once again face French opponents and will be eager to turn the tables.

While star Indian shuttler **Lakshya Sen**, who had missed the Thomas Cup tie due to an elbow injury, will open against Indonesia's Moh Zaki Ubaidillah, Tharun Mannepalli will take on France's Toma Junior Popov, Kiran George will face seventh seed Alex Lanier, and HS Prannoy will meet Christo Popov.

MALAYSIA MASTERS

In men's doubles, Hariharan Amsakarunan and MR Arjun, who did not get an opportunity in the Thomas Cup semifinal, will be keen to make a statement when they face the seventh-seeded French pair of Christo Popov and Toma Junior Popov.

Among the Indian women singles players, Tanvi Sharma will take on Thailand's Pitchamon Opatniputh, sixth seed Unnati Hooda will face China's Han Qian Xi, Malvika Bansod will clash with Germany's Yvonne Li, and Anmol Kharb will meet eighth seed Denmark's Line Hojmark Kjaersfeldt. Rakshitha Sree Santhosh Ram will face Japan's Natsuki Nidaira, while Isharani Baruah has a difficult opening-round match against fifth seed Denmark's Line Christophersen. Devika Sihag will feature in the qualifiers.

In women's doubles, Ashwini Bhat K and Shikha Gautam will meet Canada's Jackie Dent and Crystal Lai, while Rutaparna Panda and Swetaparna Panda will face second seeds Rin Iwanaga and Kie Nakanishi of Japan.

In mixed doubles, Ashith Surya and Amrutha Pramuthesh will face Indonesia's Bobby Setiabudi and Melati Daeva Oktavianti, while Rohan Kapoor and Ruthvika Shivani Gadde will take on Indonesia's Amri Syahnawi and Nita Violina Marwah. PTI

Pragg held by Foreest; Keymer takes sole lead

Bucharest (Romania): Indian Grandmaster R Praggnanandhaa played out a draw with Dutchman Jorden Van Foreest even as Germany's Vincent Keymer surged ahead following a facile victory in the fourth round of Super Chess Classic here.

CHESS

With a sole win over Alireza Firouzja of France and three draws, Praggnanandhaa inched to 2.5 points out of a possible four while Vincent moved to sole lead on three points after beating Franch Maxime Vachier-Lagrave of France.

TOI

ON TOP: Vincent Keymer

On a day when Anish Giri also got an easy draw against World Championships challenger Javokhir Sindarov of Uzbekistan, Wesley So was also held to a draw by Deac Bogdan-Daniel of Romania.

Firouzja abstained from playing the fourth round citing health issues. Praggnanandhaa faced an irregular opening as black and did not have any trouble equalising.

Van Foreest, who is slowly gaining ground and is already in top 20 of world rankings, pushed harder for a win among the two. As it happened, the players decided to repeat and the truce was called in just 35 moves.

Keymer was a class act as Vachier-Lagrave was outdone in the middle game.

After an English attack against the Najdorf Sicilian, Keymer sensed his chances with white pieces and launched a central attack that worked well given that the Frenchman had clear weaknesses on the king side. Keymer pounced on an opportunity that gave him a rook for a Bishop and just moments later, Vachier-Lagrave erred decisively to lose further material. It was all over in just 38 moves. PTI

KSHITIJ ADVANCES TO MAIN DRAW

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: Aradhya Kshitij of Bengaluru qualified for the main draw of the SM Krishna Memorial Open here on Monday. The 17-year-old scored a 7-6 (2), 6-4 win over fellow compatriot Nitin Sinha in the final qualifying round. However, Dev Javia could not follow in Aradhya's footsteps as he suffered a 4-6, 6-7 (6) loss to Thailand's Thanapet Chanta.

SM KRISHNA MEMORIAL OPEN

Meanwhile, rain played spoilsport as the five singles and one doubles matches in the main draw were suspended in the evening. India's Karan Singh and Mitsuki Leong of Malaysia were locked at 5-5 when it started to pour.

On the other courts, Dominik Palan of the Czech Republic was leading 6-4, 2-1 against Japan's Kokoro Isomura while Japanese duo Ryuki Matsuda and Yusuke Takahashi were 3-4 in the opening set.

Indian team begin testing phase

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: National women's hockey team chief coach Sjoerd Marijne began the testing phase for the hectic season ahead with a mix of young talent and experienced players.

HOCKEY

Hockey India on Monday named a 22-member squad for the tour of Australia, scheduled from May 26 to 30 in Perth. The four-match series will be held in the run-up to the FIH Nations Cup, which will be played in Auckland from June 15–21.

The Salima Tete-led squad has a good sprinkling of youngsters, including Sonam, Lalthantluangi and Hina Bano, who is set for her senior team debut.

Squad: Goalkeepers: Savita, Bichu Devi Kharibam; **Defenders:** Nikki Pradhan, Ishika Chaudhary, Sushila Chanu Pukhrambam, Lalthantluangi, Jyoti, Shilpi Dabas; **Midfielders:** Salima Tete, Lalremsiami, Neha, Sakshi Rana, Sunelita Toppo, Deepika Soreng, Sonam; **Forwards:** Navneet Kaur, Baljeet Kaur, Deepika, Annu, Ishika, Hina Bano, Rutuja Dadaso Pisal.

City Gymkhana claim big win

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: Centurions Arnav Manchale and Vedant Shaurya stole the limelight as City Gymkhana put up an all-round effort to register a massive 258-run win over Yankees Cricket Club in the KSCA U-16 inter-club tournament here on Monday.

Asked to bat, City Gymkhana captain Arnav's unbeaten century (132) and Vedant Shaurya's 86-ball 100 helped them to a strong total of 347/3 in 50 overs. After openers Pushkar S (69) and Arnav (132n.o) laid the foundation with a solid partnership of 152 off 149 deliveries, the skipper and Vedant stitched together the highest stand, scoring 172 off 148 to put City Gymkhana in the driver's seat.

In reply, Yankees CC folded up for 89 in 31.5 overs. Chiranjith SP led the attack with a five-wicket haul, while Tejas Bhat and Nandheeshwara HS took two wickets each.

Brief scores (Round of 24): City Gymkhana: 347/3 in 50 overs (Pushkar S 69, Arnav Manchale 132n.o (127b; 12x4), Vedant Shaurya 100 (86b; 11x4)) **bt Yankees CC: 89 all out in 31.5 overs** (Chiranjith SP 5-19, Tejas Bhat 2-21, Nandheeshwara HS 2-4). **Engrades CC: 271 all out in 48.5 overs** (Samvit Shastri 63, Sriganesh M 93, Rohit Ketireddi 29; Yuvraj NG 2-53, Krishna Verma 3-28) **bt Sapphire CC: 201 all out in 41.4 overs** (Viresh Moktan 25, Mokshith Bakkamanthula 36, Aryan Kadadevarmath 28, Rajath Hegde 50, Mithun Rao 26; Nitish Kumar 3-27, Tarun Rajesh 2-25). **Social Cricketers: 310/7 in 50 overs** (Athreya Bhat 50, Rafa Ballachanda 146 (116b; 18x4; 2x6), Agastya Khashu 61; Eshikesh Raju 3-33, Ved Mishra 2-38) **bt Visweswarapuram CC (2): 55 all out in 9.2 overs** (Vinjamuri Rushyanth 5-8, Arya Ayyappan 4-18).

Swastic Union CC (1): 198/9 in 50 overs (Saachin Araganji 42, Aadyot Pandey 63; Soumith Kongara 3-36, Ramnath Nayak 2-37, Shoubhit Pani 2-22) **lost to Jayanagar United Cricketers: 199/4 in 28.4 overs** (Trishaan Sethi 108 (81b; 20 x 4), Samarth Rayabagi 42; Niyanta Kulkarni 2-36).

Visweswarapuram CC (1): 247/9 in 50 overs (Advay Choudhary 25, Rupankar Nandi 68, Swastik Ekbe 50, Vivaan Balani 36n.o; Vivaan Desai 3-44, Gundala Ramanareddy 3-50) **bt Jawans CC:** 161 all out in 42.1 overs (Ashwath Gade 46, Arnav Rajiv 42; Siddharth Kona 2-25, Avyay 2-21, Swastik Ekhe 3-31, Tejasvi Sharma 2-32).

Young Lions Club: 218/9 in 50 overs (Deekshith Gowda 36, Kushal Gowda 69; Yashkumar Nishad 2-60, Aarav Gandhi 2-42) **bt Cambridge CC: 160 all out in 33.4 overs** (Aarav Gandhi 28n.o, Samrudh Girish 37; Vignesh Subhramaniyan 4-27, Usman Shareef 2-23, Jeevan G 4-27).

RVCE Gymkhana: 273/6 in 50 overs (Aarush Puthran 76, Avaneesha SN 25, Lithik Reddy 82, Skandha Shetty 35n.o; Sampath Kumar 2-42, Arush Malvankar 2-52) **bt Dooravani Cricketers (1): 185 all out in 42.5 overs** (Ayaan Mohammad 48, Sampath Kumar 29, Harshan V 34n.o; Patel 3-29, Viswajeet Jadhav 3-44, Ujwal Krishna B 2-29).

Herons CC: 230/9 in 50 overs (Niraj V 69, Jaswanth N 31, Akhilesh Pradhan 38; Pratham Nayak 2-23, Saket Chandramouli 3-42, Tanuj M 2-47) **bt Whirlwind Cricketers: 155 all out in 46.5 overs** (Shubhan Hiremath 28, Rithesh MT 25; Kodatala Reddy 2-23, Arav Vijay 4-24, P Yateesh 2-35, Akhilesh Pradhan 2-8).

Nikin, bowlers power Sir Syed

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: Riding on **Nikin Jose**'s unbeaten 198 and Kushaal Wadhwani's 3 for 5, Sir Syed Cricketers registered a 252-run win over Lions Cricket Club in the KSCA YS Ramaswamy Memorial Trophy one-day tournament here recently.

Batting first, Sir Syed were propelled to 373/4 by Nikin's 139-ball innings, which included 24 boundaries and four sixes. In reply, Lions were bowled out for 121 with Monish Reddy and Jayanth Gowda taking two wickets apiece.

Brief scores: Sir Syed Cricketers: 373/4 in 50 overs (Nikin Jose 198 n.o (139b; 24x4; 4x6), Mohith BA 66, Luvnith Sisodia 46, Shreyank Sagar 36 n.o.; Priyanshu Tripathi 2-39, R Chandrasekaran 2-62) **bt Lions CC: 121 in 28.1 overs** (Chandrasekaran 25; Monish Reddy 2-35, Jayanth Gowda 2-30, Kushaal Wadhwani 3-5). **Vultures CC: 244/5 in 50 overs** (Srujan Nandan 44, CR Kumarswamy 79, Kruthik Krishna 54 n.o.; Shikhar Shetty 25, Shivohum Gupta 2-40) **bt Spartons SC: 104 in 38.5 overs** (Mohammed Nouman 25; Shikhar 2-6, Abhishek Ahlawat 4-36, Rahul Bellad 2-13). **Swastic Union CC (2): 317/6 in 50 overs** (Ravi Reddy 42, Md. Taha 30, Vishal Onat 111n.o (124b; 10x4; 3x6), Sujay S 72, Vijaya Raj 33; Samarth MP 3-53, Chetan Rangraj 2-36) **bt Jawahar SC (1): 186 in 38.2 overs** (Prithvi V 27, Premnath Gode 39, Surya Srinivas 45, Nikhil Aithal 33 n.o; Manvanth Kumar 4-33, Hardik Raj 2-48, Mitrakant Singh 2-21). **RVCE Gymkhana: 221 in 48.2 overs** (Adarsh Rangappa 26, Adhithyan S 83; Goutham Mishra 4-57, S Suraj 2-17) **lost to Coles CC: 227/5 in 31.2 overs** (Sagar Solanki 26, Yuvraj A 34, Gowtham Sagar 55; Lankesh KS 31 n.o). **Malleswaram United CC: 159 in 44 overs** (Punith HA 80, Faizan Saif 27; Aevant Khothari 2-20, Vineeth B 2-32, Pranesh Desai 2-42, Keerthi M 3-26) **lost to Dooravani Cricketers (1): 160/3 in 24.3 overs** (Aarav Shriyan 54 n.o., Shivu M 54). **Modern CC: 307/7 in 50 overs** (Praneeth Shetty 72, Ansh Aima (124; 109b; 6x4; 6x6), Aditya Gundalli 30; Kishan Kumar 2-43, Pradyumna Srivatsa 2-48) **bt Jawahar SC (2): 200 in 44 overs** (Pranav DR 27, Naresh 46, Rohiet SSG 3-39; Siddant Navale 4-47, Ansh 2-43). **The Bangalore Cricketers: 260 in 49.5 overs** (Rakshith K 62, Saurav Samant 40, KB Shreyas 54, Bhushan DS 43; Guru Prasad 5-51, Monish S 2-36) **bt Bharath CC: 238 in 45.5 overs** (Samyak Patil 29, Manohar R 27, Hemang Srinivasan 47, Vivek Singh 41, Bharath D 32 n.o; Gourav P 2-39, Rakshith 3-45, Saurav 2-32). **Sparklers CC: 158 in 33.1 overs** (Koushik AN 38, Aadyot Pandey 33; Shridhar Jagatap 3-21, Sujay S Kulkarni 2-25, Nithish Gowda S 2-41) **lost to Jupiter CA: 161/9 in 32 overs** (Udhay Girish 42, Shridhar Jagatap 32; Mohammed Shamsheer 2-24, Gorli Durga Prasad 3-30, Eyann Grover 3-30). **Sapphire CC: 148 in 40.2 overs** (Thrivarna Sagar 67; Hriddhiman Basu 2-32, Ayaan Kumar 3-26) **lost to Visweswarapuram CC (1): 154/2 in 19 overs** (Nishith Raj 61, Harshil Arigala 54 n.o). **Magadi CC: 251 in 47.1 overs** (Yashmith Gowda 97, Sachin AM 41, Mann Bhati 38, Jayanth Krishnamurthy 35; Sumanth 3-42, Aryan 3-29, Bhuvan Gowda 2-52) **lost to Cavaliers CC: 252/5 in 40 overs** (Samith Prabhu 97, Ishaan Nayak 54, Mokhit KS 27, Mithesh Madhan 25 n.o; Mann 3-58).

This newspaper is published by Manjeet Singh Dhamija from Bennett Coleman & Co Ltd., Elixir Chancery Building, 1st, 2nd and 4th Floor, 135, Residency Road, Shanthala Nagar, Bengaluru - 560025 (Phones: Office: EPABX - 080-40200300, Editorial: 080-46787878) on behalf of Bennett Coleman & Co Ltd., edited by Neelam Raaj and printed by Sekar S at Bennett Coleman & Co Ltd., The Times of India Press, No. 8/10/11-A, 4th Main, KIADB Bommasandra Industrial Area, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore - 560 099 (Ph: 080-22899999). Regd office: Dr. D.N. Road, Mumbai - 400001. All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or in part without written permission is prohibited.
REGD. NO. CPMG/KA/GPO-31/2023-05, RNI NO. 45466/85

BENNETT, COLEMAN & CO. LTD. | Estd. 1838 | VOL. 43 NO. 118 BENGALURU | TUESDAY, MAY 19, 2026 | METRO | PAGES 22 | PRICE ₹5

THE TIMES OF INDIA

INCLUDES 6 PAGES OF BANGALORE TIMES

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Will restore in 5 years what Bastar lost to Maoists over 5 decades, says Amit Shah as govt replaces security camps with centres delivering govt schemes to locals

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA

GUARANTEE HABBA

Stepping into the 4th year

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Hon'ble Chief Minister Shri Siddaramaiah, being invited to the Samarpane Sankalpa by Dr. G. Parameshwara, Hon'ble Home Minister and Tumakuru District In-charge Minister

State Achievements	1,52,492 Beneficiaries from Tumakuru District
— E-Pauti Campaign — **14.39 lakh Pauti Khata achievement**	E-Pauti - **1,06,000**
	Revenue Village Hakku Patra - **20,666**
— Darkhast Phodi — **Phodi Progress for 2.5 lakh beneficiaries**	Darkhast Phodi and Phodi-Free Campaign - **25,826**

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TIMES GLOBAL

THE TIMES OF INDIA, BENGALURU | TUESDAY, MAY 19, 2026

A COMMITTEE IS A GROUP THAT KEEPS MINUTES AND LOSES HOURS
— MILTON BERLE

NOLAN CALLS 'THE ODYSSEY' MOST EXTREME VERSION' OF THE STORY, SAYS HE APPROACHES 'EACH FILM AS IF IT'S MY LAST'

KEANU REEVES TO VOICE LEAD ROLE IN HIDARI, A JAPANESE STOP-MOTION ACTION FILM, SAYS 'IT HAS ALL THE MAKINGS OF AN EXCEPTIONAL MOVIE'

Pak sends new Iranian peace proposal to US

Iran Media Says US Offered Interim Waiver On Oil Curbs

AFP

Vessels are seen anchored in the Strait of Hormuz off Oman on Sunday

Iran sent a new peace proposal to the US with terms that appeared similar to offers Washington has previously rejected, although a senior Iranian official told Reuters on Monday that the US had softened positions on some issues.

A Pakistani source confirmed that Islamabad, which has conveyed messages between the sides in the war in West Asia since hosting the only round of peace talks last month, had shared the latest proposal with Washington. But the source suggested progress had been difficult. The sides "keep changing their goalposts," the Pakistani source said, adding: "We don't have much time."

Iranian foreign ministry spokesperson Esmaeil Baghaei confirmed that Tehran's views had been "conveyed to the American side through Pakistan" but gave no details. Washington did not immediately comment.

The Iranian proposal, as described by the senior Iranian source, appeared similar in many respects to Iran's previous offer, which US President Trump rejected last week as "garbage". It would focus first on securing an end to the war, reopening the Strait of Hormuz and lifting maritime sanctions. Contentious issues around Iran's nuclear programme and uranium enrichment would be deferred to later rounds of talks, the source said.

However, in an apparent softening of Washington's stance, the senior Iranian source said the US had agreed to release a quarter of Iran's frozen funds — totalling tens of billions of dollars — held in foreign banks. The Iranian source also said Washington had shown more flexibility in agreeing to let Iran continue some peaceful nuclear activity. Iran's Tasnim news agency separately quoted an unidentified source as saying the US had agreed to waive oil sanctions on Iran while negotiations were under way. Iranian officials did not immediately comment on Tasnim's report, which a US official, who declined to be named, said was false. REUTERS

Iran names new body to manage Hormuz

Tehran: Iran's top security body announced on Monday the formation of a new body to manage the Strait of Hormuz.

On its official X account, the Supreme National Security Council shared a post for the Persian Gulf Strait Authority (PGSA) saying it would provide "realtime updates on the #Hormuz_Strait operations and latest developments."

The account of the Revolutionary Guards navy shared the same post. It was not immediately clear what the new body would do but earlier this month Iranian English-speaking broadcaster Press TV said it constituted a "system to exercise sovereignty over the Strait of Hormuz" and that ships passing through the strait were sent "regulations" from the email info@pgsa.ir. AFP

'Mediator Pak deployed 8k troops, squadron of fighter jets to Saudi amid Iran war'

Reuters/File

According to sources, Pakistan has deployed a full squadron of around 16 aircraft, mostly JF-17s made jointly with China, which were sent to Saudi Arabia in early April

Islamabad: Pakistan has deployed 8,000 troops, a squadron of fighter jets and an air defence system to Saudi Arabia under a mutual defence pact, ramping up military cooperation with Riyadh even as Islamabad serves as the main mediator in the Iran war.

The deployment, the full scale of which has been reported for the first time, was confirmed by three security officials and two govt sources, all of whom described it as a substantial, combat-capable force intended to support Saudi Arabia's military if the kingdom comes under further attack.

Pakistan's military and foreign office and Saudi Arabia's govt media office did not respond to requests for comment on the deployment. The full terms of the defence agreement, signed last year, are confidential, but both sides have said it requires Pakistan and Saudi Arabia to come to each other's defence in the event of an attack. Defence minister Khawaja Asif has previously implied that it places Saudi Arabia under Pakistan's nuclear umbrella. According to the sources, Pakistan has deployed a full squadron of around 16 aircraft, mostly JF-17 fighters made jointly with China, which were sent to Saudi Arabia in early April. Two of the security officials said Pakistan had also sent two squadrons of drones.

All five sources said the deployment includes a Chinese HQ-9 air defence system. The equipment is operated by Pakistani personnel and financed by Saudi Arabia, they said.

The military and air force personnel deployed during the Iran conflict will primarily have an advisory and training role, according to two of the security officials, who said they had seen exchanges between the two countries and documents on the military assets' deployment. The deployment adds to thousands of Pakistani troops with a combat role that were already stationed in the kingdom under previous agreements, all three security officials said.

One of the sources, who has seen the text of the confidential defence pact, said it provides for the possibility of up to 80,000 Pakistani troops being deployed to Saudi Arabia, to help secure the kingdom's borders. Two of the security officials said the agreement also involved the deployment of Pakistani warships. It could not be confirmed whether any had reached Saudi Arabia. REUTERS

Indian student dead, 6 others hurt in road accident in US

Washington: A 25-year-old Indian student died in a road accident near Chicago in the US that left six others injured. The accident took place late Saturday night on Interstate 65 highway near the city of Crown Point in Lake County of Indiana state.

Local media reports identified the student at Navya Gadusu, who was pronounced dead at 12.16am on Sunday, by the Lake County Coroner's office. The Indian Consulate General in Chicago expressed "heartfelt" condolences and said it was in touch with the family of the deceased.

According to the Indiana State Police, the crash occurred around 11.15 pm Saturday when a red minivan, with seven adults onboard, was travelling at just 10-15 mph behind a vehicle that was experiencing mechanical issues. Another car, whose driver did not realise how slowly the minivan was moving, tried to swerve left to avoid it, state police said. It ended up hitting the left side of the minivan, sending it off the roadway into a ditch, state police said.

The vehicle with mechanical problems that the minivan was following was not hit, police added. PTI

23-yr-old from Haryana becomes UK's youngest mayor of Indian origin

Naomi Canton

At 20, Tushar was a second-year undergraduate student when he became a councillor

London: Britain's youngest Indian-origin councillor at 20 has gone on to become the country's youngest Indian-origin mayor three years later.

Tushar Kumar, who lived in Haryana's Rohtak until he was 10, was elected mayor of Elstree and Borehamwood Town Council last week, marking a quick transition from rookie councillor to deputy mayor to the top of the hierarchy. When he first became a councillor in May 2023, Tushar was a second-year undergraduate student at King's College London, studying for a BSc in Politics. His parents, who work in education, had moved to the UK from Rohtak 13 years ago.

Tushar was elected a Labour councillor with 832 votes, beating the Conservative candidate by a single vote after a recount. The Conservatives had held that seat for three decades. His mother, Parveen Rani, whom he credits with being his source of inspiration, also contested and won a seat on the Hertsmere Borough Council and later became deputy mayor.

As mayor, Tushar has a civic role and will be attending events, championing the community and supporting charities and local groups.

Having graduated, he is currently working full-time and plans to start a Master's in political economy at UCL this Sept. He will continue to be mayor while pursuing a higher degree. "I really want to focus on inspiring young people to engage with community life and public service," Tushar said. He visits India often to give talks at universities. "I am very much connected to India. My mum has taught me to stay rooted to my culture and heritage," he said, adding that he organised the council's first Diwali celebration, which is now an annual event.

Kumar, who has five A levels and 21 GCSES, said his family had no background in politics in India. "Politics in India is very different and difficult to get into. I think there are more opportunities here in the UK," he said.

MAGA's project 'Big MAC' (Make America Christian) unfolds

Chidanand Rajghatta | TNN

AP

People at 'Rededicate 250', a conservative Christian prayer gathering in honour of the US' 250th anniversary in Washington Sunday

Washington: For a country whose Constitution famously avoids mentioning Jesus Christ even once, America is suddenly looking suspiciously like it is auditioning for a biblical reboot. Thousands of cheering conservatives gathered on the Capital's National Mall on Sunday for "Rededicate 250," an eight-hour, White House-backed prayer jamboree critics described as a giant Big MAC project: Make America Christian.

There were evangelical pastors, worship bands, Bible thumpers, MAGA influencers, cabinet secretaries, conservative lawmakers and enough references to God and spiritual warfare to make medieval Europe feel under-churched.

President Trump addressed by video, urging Americans to "rededicate" the nation as "one nation under God," while secretary of state Marco Rubio declared Christianity the animating force behind the American experiment itself.

The event — funded partly with taxpayer money and featuring messages from Vice President JD Vance, defence secretary Pete Hegseth and house speaker Mike Johnson — represented the clearest expression yet of the Trump-era effort to fuse American identity with Christianity. As one wag quipped, church and state are no longer separated by a wall so much as connected by a stairway to heaven.

The irony is rich. For decades, Washington lectured countries such as India and Turkiye against mixing religion with nationalism, warning about "majoritarianism" and "religious revivalism." Yet the same Washington establishment now watches as MAGA activists — "American Taliban" — proclaim America a Christian nation in need of spiritual reclamation.

Several speakers went further still. MAGA pastor Robert Jeffress declared the Founding Fathers "would be called Christian nationalists today". Conservative commentator Eric Metaxas informed the crowd that "the Lord waited two centuries to raise Trump," so that he could build a ballroom, prompting applause usually reserved for second comings.

All this would likely bewilder the actual Founding Fathers. Thomas Jefferson famously cut miracles out of his personal Bible with scissors. James Madison repeatedly warned against govt entanglement with religion. George Washington spoke about morality and Providence but avoided evangelical language.

For more than two centuries, America's presidents largely respected that distinction. Jimmy Carter taught Sunday school but did not propose a Baptist republic. Ronald Reagan courted evangelicals enthusiastically but avoided formally redefining America as explicitly Christian. Even George W. Bush maintained the traditional constitutional balancing act.

Trump, however, has embraced the symbolism despite his sketchy record as an especially observant Christian. He rarely goes to church, struggles with biblical references, and once famously held a Bible upside down while posing for photographs. At "Rededicate 250," critics noted his halting reading of a passage about humility and repentance – two concepts not associated with Trump. Yet evangelical Christians remain among his strongest supporters. Their support rests less on personal piety than political utility. Trump delivered conservative Supreme Court justices, abortion curbs and a culture-war agenda centred on gender, immigration and secular liberalism. Now they want him to deliver a CUS — Christian United States.

Vax crisis inherited, had no measles shots in stock when we took office: BNP govt

Ahsan Tasnim

Dhaka: With child deaths from measles on the rise, the **Tarique Rahman**-led BNP dispensation said it walked into a full-blown vaccine crisis, claiming there was not a single measles shot in stock when it assumed office — remarks seen as a veiled criticism of both Sheikh Hasina's govt and the Muhammad Yunus-led interim setup.

"The current measles outbreak is because of the absence of regular nationwide immunisation programmes after Dec 2020 and the severe shortage of vaccines in subsequent years," heath minister Sardar Md Sakhawat Hossain said Sunday, referring to the tenures of the Hasina as PM and that of Yunus.

In the wake of nearly 460 children dying — six in the last 24 hours — from measles and over 7,400 infected since mid-March, Bangladesh High Court admitted a plea seeking that Yunus and 24 others be barred from leaving the country pending completion of probe into the shortage of measles vaccines.

On Monday, HC has adjourned the hearing on the plea seeking directions to form an independent investigation commission to determine the responsibility for irregularities, delays and administrative failures in the procurement and distribution of measles vaccines and to ban advisors of the interim govt, including Yunus, from leaving the country until Tuesday.

Unicef-Bangladesh had repeatedly warned the Yunus-led interim govt about an impending vaccine shortage and the consequent risk of disease outbreaks, officials said, adding overall 42,092 suspected measles patients have been hospitalised of whom 37,744 have recovered.

Following the years of gap in the measles vaccination campaign, the health minister said that with the help of Unicef, vaccination was restarted in 2026 after BNP assumed office, though he admitted that "in fact, when we started we did not even have a single measles vaccine in our hands". Hossain said the situation has "improved somewhat" following extensive vaccination campaigns carried out in affected districts, upazilas and city corporation areas, even as health experts and doctors noted that the on ground situation is still dire. The steep increase has put health officials on high alert, especially in densely populated areas of Dhaka where the disease is spreading quickly.

Musk loses OpenAI suit as jury says 'filed too late'

Oakland: A jury in the US on Monday ruled against Elon Musk in his lawsuit against OpenAI, finding the artificial intelligence company not liable to the world's richest person for having allegedly strayed from its original mission to benefit humanity.

In a unanimous verdict, the jury in Oakland, California federal court said Musk had brought his case too late. The jury deliberated less than two hours.

The trial had widely been seen as a critical moment for the future of OpenAI and artificial intelligence generally, both in how it should be used and who should benefit from it.

Following the verdict, Musk's lawyer said he reserved the right to appeal, but the judge suggested he may have an uphill battle because whether the statute of limitations ran out before Musk sued was a factual issue. "There's a substantial amount of evidence to support the jury's finding, which is why I was prepared to dismiss on the spot," US district judge Yvonne Gonzalez Rogers said.

In his 2024 lawsuit, Musk accused OpenAI, its chief executive Sam Altman and its president Greg Brockman of manipulating him into giving $38 million, then going behind his back by attaching a for-profit business to its original non-profit and accepting tens of billions of dollars from Microsoft and other investors. Musk called the OpenAI defendants' conduct "stealing a charity."

OpenAI was founded by Altman, Musk and several others in 2015. Musk left its board in 2018, and OpenAI set up a for-profit business the following year. REUTERS

US temporarily restricts travel to curb Ebola risk

Washington: The US is suspending entry of some travellers for 30 days to reduce the risk of Ebola spread as international concerns rise over a new outbreak in the Democratic Republic of Congo, the US CDC said on Monday, even as it told Americans the immediate risk was low.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention issued an order suspending the entry of travellers who have departed from, or were present in, the DRC, Uganda, and South Sudan during the past 21 days, regardless of their country of origin, it said in a statement.

The order comes as medical personnel rushed to the front lines of the outbreak after the WHO declared it a public health emergency. The measures will not apply to US citizens, US nationals, members of the US military, govt personnel overseas, their spouses, and kids, according to the order. REUTERS

DOJ announces $1.8bn fund to compensate Trump allies

Washington: US President Donald Trump's administration created a nearly $1.8 billion fund to settle claims that the justice department improperly targeted his political allies in exchange for the president voluntarily dismissing his $10 billion lawsuit against the internal revenue service. The settlement creates an "Anti-Weaponisation Fund" that will pay out legal claims to people who show they suffered "weaponisation" by US govt.

The justice department said there are no partisan requirements to file a claim, but those terms have frequently been used by Trump and his allies to describe the criminal cases against them, including those who stormed the US Capitol on Jan 6, 2021.

"The machinery of govt should never be weaponised against any American, and it is this department's intention to make right the wrongs that were previously done while ensuring this never happens again," acting attorney general Todd Blanche said.

Blanche, a former personal lawyer to Trump who defended him in three criminal cases, will appoint four of the five members of the commission who will decide the merits of the claims. Trump, his sons Donald Trump Jr. and Eric Trump, and the Trump Organisation, sued the IRS, arguing the agency should have done more to prevent a former contractor from disclosing their tax returns to media during the president's first term. These returns showed that Trump paid little income taxes in many years, NYT reported in 2020. Trump filed the lawsuit personally, not in his capacity as president. REUTERS

Cuba: US military action would lead to a 'bloodbath'

Cuban President Miguel Díaz-Canel said on Monday that any US military action against Cuba would lead to a "bloodbath" with incalculable consequences for regional peace and stability. "Cuba does not represent a threat," Diaz-Canel said in a post on X.

The comments follow a report published on Sunday, citing classified intelligence, that said Cuba had acquired more than 300 military drones and had discussed plans to use them to attack the US naval base at Guantanamo Bay, US military vessels and Key West, Florida.

Foreign minister Bruno Rodriguez said Cuba, "like every nation in the world", has the right to legitimate self-defence against external aggression under the UN Charter. He also said those seeking to attack Cuba use false pretexts to justify it. REUTERS

DAILY PLANET

AFP

A luxury liner at the centre of an outbreak of hantavirus docked at the Dutch port of Rotterdam on Monday, where authorities are disembarking the remaining 25 crew members and two medical staff and planned to cremate a German woman who died. The Dutch-flagged MV Hondius cruise will also be disinfected

Shakira acquitted of tax fraud, court orders Spain to hand back €60m

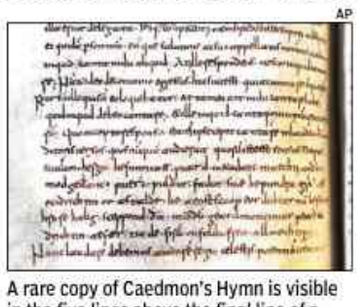
Spain's high court has acquitted Colombian pop star Shakira of tax fraud and overturned the €55 million fine imposed in 2021 by the Spanish tax agency, according to a court document seen by Reuters on Monday. Acting on an appeal by the singer, the court ordered the treasury to reimburse her with over €60 million, including interest, Shakira's defence said. The judge ruled that authorities had failed to prove that Shakira spent more than 183 days in Spain in 2011, as required by Spanish law to be considered a tax resident in the country. At the time, the tax agency had argued that Shakira was linked to Spain through her relationship with former FC Barcelona footballer Gerard Pique and had her centre of activities in Spain. The tax agency said it would appeal with the country's Supreme Court.

Bodies of 4 Italian divers found in Maldives sea cave: Italy's foreign ministry said on Monday that rescuers have located the bodies of four Italian divers deep inside an underwater cave in an atoll in the Maldives, four days after they were reported missing. The body of a fifth Italian — a diving instructor — was found earlier outside the cave. The five were exploring a cave at a depth of about 50 metres on Thursday, according to Italy's foreign ministry. The recreational diving limit in the Maldives is 30 metres.

Escaped tiger shot dead in Germany: German police said Monday they had shot dead a tiger that escaped from an enclosure after it attacked one of the keepers. A police spokesman told AFP that the animal had seriously injured one person, who was being treated in hospital.

Experts stunned by a forgotten medieval book in Rome hiding oldest English poem

AP



A rare copy of Caedmon's Hymn is visible in the five lines above the final line of a page from an 8th-century manuscript copy of the Venerable Bede's Ecclesiastical History of the English People

Rome: The researchers in Ireland looked at their computer screen, marvelling at a medieval book tracked down in a Roman library. They flipped through its digitised pages and found their sought-after treasure: the oldest surviving English poem.

"We were extremely surprised. We were speechless. We couldn't believe our eyes when we first saw that," Elisabetta Magnanti, a research fellow at Trinity College Dublin's school of English, said. What's more, she said, the poem was within the main body of Latin text: "It was extraordinary."

Composed in Old English by a Northumbrian agricultural worker in the 7th century, "Caedmon's Hymn" appears within some copies of the "Ecclesiastical History of the English People," written in Latin by a monk and saint known as the Venerable Bede. His history is one of the most widely reproduced texts from Middle Ages, with almost 200 manuscripts, according to Magnanti's colleague Mark Faulkner, an associate professor of medieval literature at Trinity. He considers Caedmon's poem to be the start of English literature.

The manuscript he and Magnanti found is one of the oldest, dating from the 9th century. Two earlier copies contain the poem in Old English, but as afterthoughts — translated from Latin and scrawled into the margin by later scribes or appended but not within the text's main body, according to the researchers.

The discovery sheds light on the English language's wide diffusion, long before what was previously understood, Faulkner said in Rome, where the duo had travelled to view the text in person for the first time. "Prior to the discovery of the Rome manuscript, the earliest one was from the 12th century. So this is three centuries earlier than that," Faulkner said.

Some 1,400 years later, this copy of poem resurfaced in Rome's main public library. Monks transcribed this copy of Bede's history in the scriptorium of the Benedictine abbey of Nonantola, one of the most important transcription centres during the Middle Ages, located near modern-day Modena in northern Italy, according to Valentina Longo, curator of medieval and modern manuscripts at Rome's National Central Library.

In the 17th century, as the abbey's importance declined, its vast collection of manuscripts was shifted to another abbey in Rome, then moved to the Vatican and finally on to a church. Along the way, some of the texts went missing, only to emerge in the 19th century in the possession of famous international collectors, Longo said.

Italy's culture ministry was scouring the world for the Nonantola abbey's missing manuscripts, snapping them up in auctions and from collectors around the world. It bought the copy of Bede's history from Austrian-born rare bookseller H P Kraus Kraus in 1972, Longo said, and since then the illustrious text has remained in Rome's library.

Enter Magnanti, who had spent over four years studying Bede's history. "I knew that the book was listed in the library's catalogue," she said. She emailed the library, which confirmed the book was in its stacks. Three months later, she received digital images of the entire manuscript. AP